MARVEL

VOL 3

THE NEW AVENGERS®

SECRETS & LIES

FINCH
DANNY MIKI
fgd

SHEDDING LIGHT ON THE NEW AVENGERS' DARKEST SECRETS!

First, it's the debut of the mysterious New Avenger everyone has been talking about! Who is Ronin, and why has Captain America recruited him into the fold? Then, Cap catches Spider-Woman double-dealing the New Avengers and corners her! How did she get her powers back and to whom does she answer?

Collecting *New Avengers #11-15* – written by Brian Michael Bendis *(Ultimate Spider-Man)*, and illustrated by David Finch *(Moon Knight)* and Frank Cho *(Shanna, the She-Devil)* – and the lead story from *Giant-Size Spider-Woman #1*, written by Bendis and illustrated by Rick Mays *(Livewires)*.

MARVEL

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VOL 3

THE NEW AVENGERS®

FINCH

SECRETS & LIES

MARVEL.com 11

BENDIS
FINCH
MIKI
D'ARMATA

THE NEW AVENGERS

RONIN PART 1

FINCH
DANNY MIKI
fgd

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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand! Stan Lee presents…

THE NEW AVENGERS

When a breakout occurs at the high-tech maximum security prison known as the Raft, Captain America, Iron Man, Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Spider-Woman, and the mysterious powerhouse known as the Sentry gather together to battle the rioting criminals. Captain America convinces Iron Man that a new team of Avengers has been brought together by fate. Though the formation of the team has not been made public, the New Avengers, including the X-Man Wolverine, now operate out of Stark tower.

Only one member of the super hero community who was present the first night the New Avengers fought together refused to join the team—Matt Murdock, known throughout Hell's Kitchen as Daredevil.

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Penciler
David Finch

Inker
Danny Miki

Colorist
Frank D'Armata

Letterers
Richard Starkings & Comicraft's Albert Deschesne

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TODAY
OSAKA, JAPAN

BAM

CRACK

GAH!

ARGH!

FAK

SPLACK

BAM

BONK

SMACK

NOW I ASK *AGAIN!*

WHO WILL TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW?

YESTERDAY
NEW YORK CITY

MISTER MURDOCK.

CAPTAIN AMERICA...

IF THIS IS ABOUT ME JOINING THE AVENGERS AGAIN...

...MY ANSWER REMAINS THE SAME...

KENUICHIO HARADA.

THE SILVER SAMURAI.

HE WAS ONE OF THE FORTY-TWO POWERED CRIMINALS WHO ESCAPED FROM THAT MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON RIOT WE FOUND OURSELVES INVOLVED IN LAST MONTH.

FORTY-TWO *ESCAPED?* OH MY GOD.

THAT'S WHAT *I* SAID.

UGH, IT NEVER ENDS.

THAT'S WHY WE HAVE A NEW AVENGERS.

CAP, I--

JUST LISTEN.

KENUICHIO HARADA WAS BROUGHT TO THE RAFT THAT VERY DAY FOR, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, INTERNATIONAL CRIMES INVOLVING HIS COUSIN SUNFIRE--

HUH.

HE ESCAPED THE RAFT DURING THE RIOT AND GOT ON A PRIVATE PLANE TO JAPAN THE SAME NIGHT.

WHOSE PLANE? HIS?

SOME DUMMY CORPORATION.

HYDRA?

I WAS TOLD THE HAND.

THE HAND? NO.

IT'S YAKUZA. LET S.H.I.E.L.D. TAKE CARE OF IT.

CAN'T DO THAT.

WHY?

WE CAN'T DISCUSS IT HERE.

IS THAT FRENCH FOR *"YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME?"*

NO. IT'S ENGLISH FOR *"WE CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT IN THE OPEN AIR."*

SO I'M ASKING YOU... WHY DO *YOU* THINK A GROUP OF NINJA ASSASSINS WOULD GO TO THE EFFORT OF SNEAKING THE SILVER SAMURAI OUT OF THIS COUNTRY?

I'M NOT CONVINCED THE HAND WOULD.

BUT BEST GUESS? THE YASHIDA CLAN, IN ITS DAY, HAD TOTAL CONTROL OVER THE JAPANESE UNDERWORLD.

THE MONEY THAT FAMILY BROUGHT IN? TEN *TIMES* WHAT WILSON FISK COULD EVER *DREAM* OF.

WITH TEN TIMES THE BLOOD ON IT.

BUT THE YASHIDA CLAN *SPLINTERED* WITHOUT A CLEAR LEADER. THEY'VE BEEN THROUGH SEVEN CONTENDERS IN TWO YEARS.

BUT YOU GET SOMEONE LIKE THE *SILVER SAMURAI* BACK IN THE CHAIR...

...BACK IN POWER AS THE KINGPIN OF JAPAN... EVEN AS A PUPPET...

...*NOW* THE HAND HAVE A POWER BASE.

THIS HAS TO BE TAKEN CARE OF BEFORE IT STARTS.

NO ONE KNOWS THE HAND OR THE JAPANESE UNDERWORLD BETTER THAN YOU.

WOLVERINE DOES.

HE IS NOT AVAILABLE, AND WE DON'T KNOW WHEN HE WILL BE.

HE'S STILL AN X-MAN?

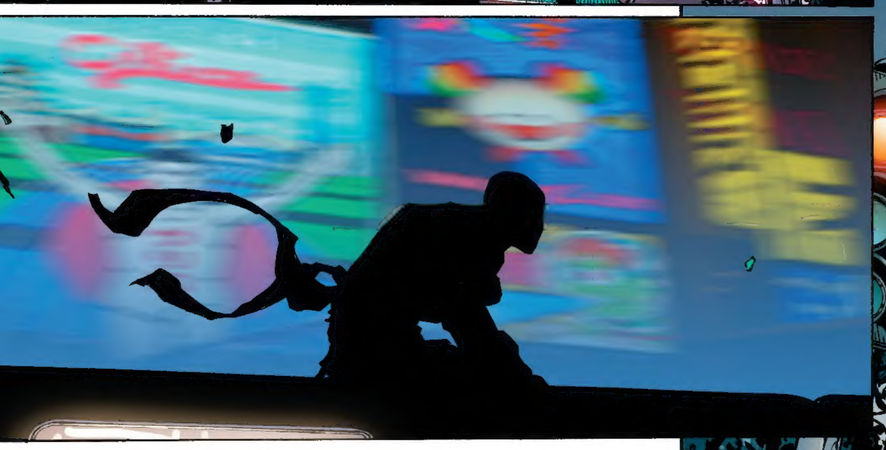
HE IS.

AND AN AVENGER?

WHEN HE CAN.

WE NEED DAREDEVIL.

グリコ
セレクション
キムラヤ



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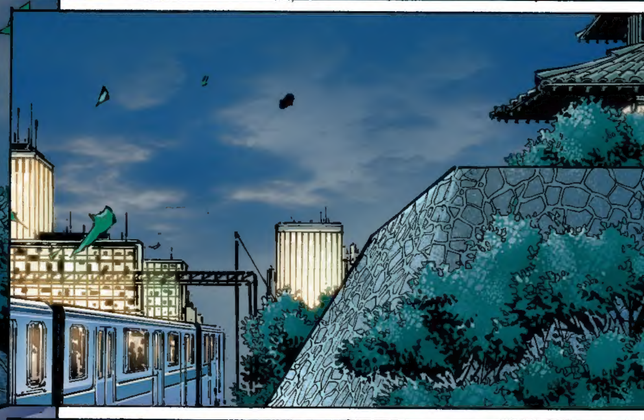


YESTERDAY

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU.

YOU REALLY DON'T TAKE NO FOR AN--

THE WORLD'S ORGANIZED CRIME IS IN TOTAL DISARRAY.

THE YASHIDA CLAN, WILSON FISK, EVEN DOCTOR DOOM DEPENDING ON YOUR DEFINITION OF IT.

ALL OF THEIR EMPIRES IN DISARRAY. AND THAT'S JUST THREE.

FOR THE YASHIDA CLAN TO MAKE A MOVE, TO GET THEIR NAME BACK, THEY HAVE TO *DO* SOMETHING... MAJOR.

AND AS YOU SAID...THE SILVER SAMURAI BACK IN JAPAN WOULD BE A START.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE GUILTING ME LIKE THIS.

WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT THEIR PLAN IS AND WHO IT'S WITH.

AND, OF COURSE, GETTING THE SILVER SAMURAI BACK BEHIND *BARS* WOULDN'T BE A BAD MOVE ON OUR PART EITHER.

DAREDEVIL CANNOT JOIN THE AVENGERS.

WHAT *CAN* HE DO THEN?

WHAT *CAN* YOU DO?

THERE *HAS* TO BE A WAY TO MAKE THIS WORK. THIS *HAS* TO BE TAKEN CARE OF.

WHAT?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND? I HAVE A TARGET ON MY BACK.

I'VE BEEN OUTED IN THE TABLOIDS. *EVERYONE* KNOWS I'M DAREDEVIL.

THEY WANT TO THROW ME IN JAIL!

I HAVE *SIX* FEDERAL TASK FORCES ASSIGNED TO BRING ME DOWN.

YOUR GOVERNMENT, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, IS ACTIVELY PURSUING ME WITH *EVERYTHING* THEY HAVE.

EVEN IF IT MEANS RISKING HAVING TO LEGALLY LET EVERY CRIMINAL I'VE EVER *PUT* IN JAIL... *OUT* OF JAIL.

THEY WOULD RATHER HAVE *ME* IN JAIL THAN ACTUAL CRIMINALS.

WHY?

BECAUSE THE FED THAT THROWS ME IN JAIL WILL GET A FEDERAL JUDGESHIP.

THIS IS WHAT I AM DEALING WITH.

I TOLD YOU THEN, AND I'LL TELL YOU AGAIN NOW...

THERE IS NO WAY ON GOD'S GREEN PLANET EARTH I WILL PUT YOU, PETER PARKER, LUKE CAGE AND THE OTHERS IN *MY* LINE OF FIRE.

I *WILL* NOT DO IT.

BECAUSE EVEN IF WE SAVED THE WORLD FROM AN ALIEN INVASION...

...SAVED EVERY LIFE ON THE PLANET IN A FLURRY OF HEROISM NOT SEEN SINCE THE DAYS OF MYTHOLOGY...

...AND JESUS HIMSELF CAME BACK AND JOINED THE TEAM...

...THE NEXT *DAY* ALL OF YOU WOULD BE SUCKED UNDER A BUS...JUST FOR KNOWING ME.

I *CAN'T* DO IT.

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU KNOW THIS, BUT THERE WAS A TIME WHEN--WHEN THE UNIFORM OF CAPTAIN AMERICA WASN'T WORKING FOR ME.

I WAS HAVING A LOT OF TROUBLE REPRESENTING THIS FLAG AND THIS COUNTRY.

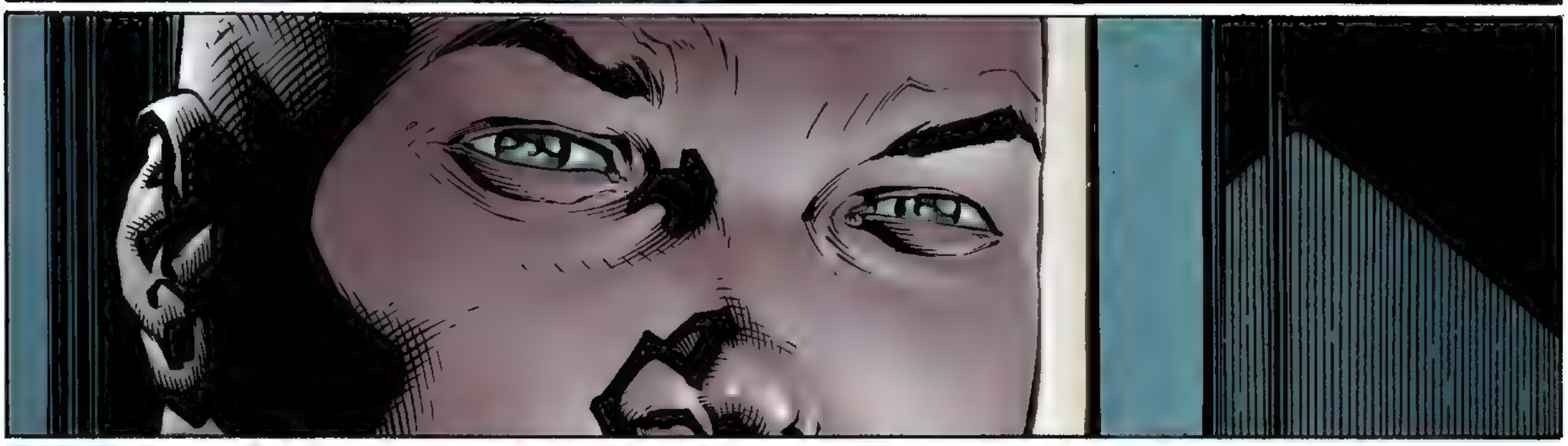
IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT I STOPPED BEING CAPTAIN AMERICA.

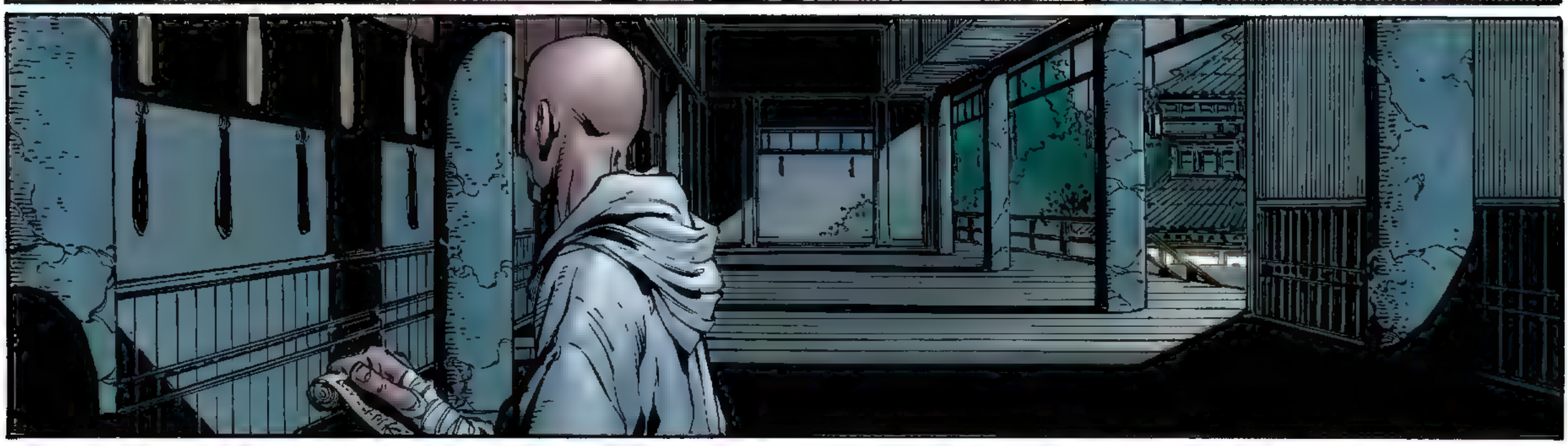
I PUT ON ANOTHER UNIFORM. *AND* I CALLED MYSELF NOMAD...AND I REPRESENTED *NO* COUNTRY.

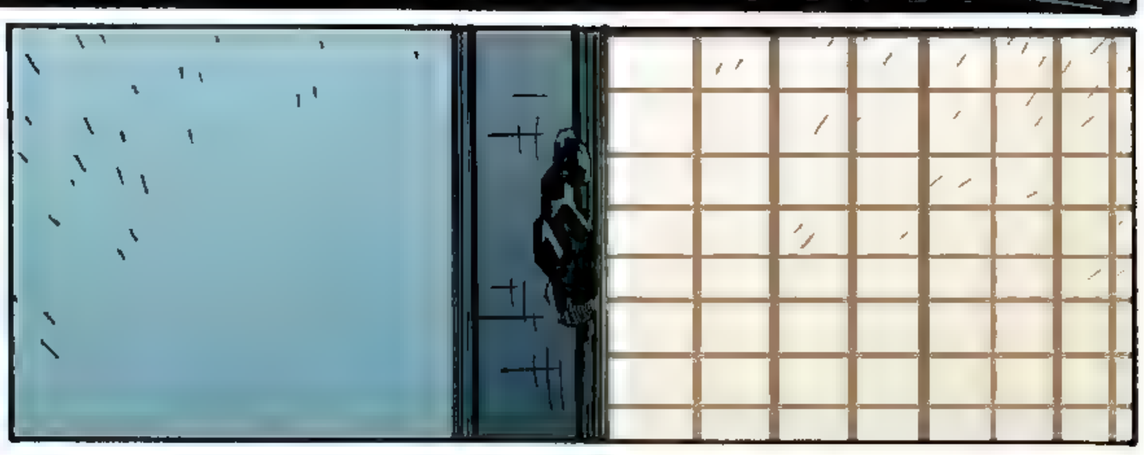
JUST MYSELF.

REALLY?

YES, SIR.







YESTERDAY

YOU KNOW...

...THERE IS SOMEONE I KNOW... WHO KNOWS EVERYTHING *I* KNOW.

KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT EVERYTHING YOU NEED FROM ME HERE.

REALLY?

THEY CAN DO WHAT YOU NEED DONE EVERY BIT AS WELL AS *I* CAN.

SAME TRAINING. SAME FIGHTING STYLES.

SAME KNOWLEDGE OF THE HAND AND THE CLAN YASHIDA.

ALL OF IT.

SOMEONE YOU *TRUST?*

ABSOLUTELY.

SOMEONE *I* KNOW?

I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T THINK SO.

WHO IS HE?

YESTERDAY, NEW YORK

I WOULD RATHER HAVE HAD THIS MEETING IN PRIVATE...

...BUT I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERNS.

IF I MAY BE BLUNT...

I WASN'T *THRILLED* WITH WHAT INTEL I COULD FIND ON YOU.

YOUR CONNECTIONS TO WILSON FISK AND HIS ASSOCIATES ARE, IN MY OPINION, QUESTIONABLE AT BEST.

BUT I'VE BEEN LEARNING MORE AND MORE THAT YOU CAN'T ALWAYS BE SO QUICK TO JUDGE PEOPLE.

IF MATT MURDOCK VOUCHES FOR YOU...

...WELL, THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.

WE NEED YOU TO FIND HARADA, FIND OUT WHO HE'S IN BUSINESS WITH, AND FIND OUT WHAT THE PLAN IS.

WE'D LIKE YOU TO SLIP IN AND SLIP OUT UNDETECTED.

WE DON'T EXPECT YOU TO FIGHT THIS BY YOURSELF.

BUT NO ONE KNOWS MORE THAN I THAT A FIGHT CAN COME FROM ANY DIRECTION.

SO IF-- *IF* YOU DO *HAVE* TO FIGHT YOUR WAY OUT...

PLEASE...

...IF AT ALL POSSIBLE...

...NO KILLING.

HAAII!

PACK

THWACK

AAII!

GGLLFFDD!

THUMP

THWACK

PACK

STARK
スターク
AGH!
OH MY GOD!
WHOAH!
ARE YOU OKAY?
LISTEN, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
I INFILTRATED THE YOSHIDA FORTRESS. HARADA *IS* THERE.
WITH THE HAND, YES.
BUT THEY ARE AGAIN, IT SEEMS, IN A PARTNERSHIP.
THE TERRORISTS HYDRA WERE *ALSO* THERE.
MADAME HYDRA WAS THERE. IT WAS DEFINITELY HER.
MADAME HYDRA FELL OFF THE GRID TWO MONTHS AGO...
OY WITH THE MADAME HYDRA!!
I'M-I'M SORRY. CAP?
WHO *IS* THIS?
ARE YOU HURT?
I'M SORRY I FAILED YOU.
HOW DID YOU FAIL? SOUNDS LIKE YOU--

FUNK FUNK

FUNK FUNK

FUNK FUNK

FUNK FUNK

JEEZ!

I'M SORRY...

...I FAILED YOU.

TO BE CONTINUED...

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

Hey gang, sorry for the delay on the letters page. We've been telling stories that are a page longer than normal, so I've just been bumping the letters page back and back—BUT NO MORE! So, last time we talked, I asked for you to let me know if you thought NEW AVENGERS was similar to DC Comics' flagship title. Here's what you thought:

Andy,

Being a longtime fan of both Marvel and DC super-teams and having read both titles off and on, I have to say NO. The two titles are not alike in my opinion.

AVENGERS to me has always been more human. It's about human beings with great strength, great weaknesses and doing great heroics. The DC team has always seemed close to god-like though they too possess great strength, great weaknesses and do great deeds.

I haven't picked up an AVENGERS book in a while. Starting with the Dissambled storyline, I'm back collecting and reading Marvel's finest superhero team-up team.

Great Lakes Avengers Assemble!
Peter Welmerink
Rockford, Michigan

Thanks, Peter. Glad to have you back in the fold.

House of Ideas,

Thank you, thank you, thank you. I consider myself a longtime fan though I've only entered the comic books universe more or less 8 years ago. Comics and super heroes--I can say this proudly--saved my life. For this, I'll always be grateful. However, there was a period during these 8 years when it seemed to me quality was a value lost to quantity. It made me a sad panda. And now? What is happening now? THIS is the golden age: talented writers, talented pencilers, talented people who want to create good reads so much you can feel it on the paper--okay, maybe I'm a bit exaggerating here, but still… And to the point, NEW AVENGERS is a good example of this, written like a great TV show--thank you Mr. Bendis, for everything--with great characterization... it nearly makes me sad to close the book when I'm done with it.

As for the issue dealing with DC's "flagship title," I think it feels a bit close in the sense that you take characters people love and you make them interact, that's all. Plus, Superman is not Cap, Iron Man ain't Green Lantern or whoever...these are characters I love getting together. What's not to like?

DK
Paris, France.

We certainly are using some popular characters in NEW AVENGERS. No doubt about that. We've also added several not-so-popular characters. Prior to this series, few people were clamoring for a book featuring Spider-Woman, Luke Cage, or The Sentry. If they become more popular now, that's great! Speaking of Sentry, I'll discuss your letters about the Sentry arc in the next letters page.

Andy,

You asked if we think that NEW AVENGERS is just like DC's flagship title. I can see where that criticism came from, and the thought did occur to me before I read an issue of the series. But it didn't last beyond the first few pages and it's totally out the window by issue #3.

Look, I'm a lifelong JLA fan and have preferred DC to Marvel for the last 15 years or so, so believe me, if this was some JLA clone I'd make snarky remarks and leave it on the shelf. But it isn't, and it won't be.

What fans should remember is this: I think the fundamental differences between the JLA and the AVENGERS were best expressed in JLA/AVENGERS; both groups are composed of powerful heroes, but the settings, tone, and outlook of the universes have always been very different and that's where a lot of the fun and appeal lies.

It's a question of style, you know? If you were trying to do NEW AVENGERS in a DC style, it'd probably be awful. Look what happened when DC tried to do the JLA in what someone thought was a Marvel style: JLA Detroit. But this NEW AVENGERS is in the best of Marvel traditions: human interaction, proud history, back to basics: Cap asking Spider-Man, "How's that working out for you?" I mean seriously, how cool was that?

What some fans forget is that the JLA isn't composed of top-selling characters for the sake of being top-selling characters; those characters were the original JLA, and when they were reunited under Morrison's run, it was in some ways a back-to-basics approach.

In NEW AVENGERS, you have (so far as I can see) an offbeat group that reminds me (in composition) of the early days of Giffen/ DeMatties *Justice League*; a genuinely new mix of characters that haven't been put together before. I'm interested to see where this goes, and the mix itself gives you lots of interesting possibilities.

Long story short, you have a new regular reader. I refuse to knock a comic company for taking a chance, and I think you're taking a chance. Go for it.

Brian Clarke,
Richmond, BC

Thanks for the kind words. We're trying to do something new, but after over 30 years of great stories, man, it's hard to do something that hasn't been tried before. And we aren't looking to step on any great creator's toes. Thanks for your support, Brian.

Dear New Avengers,

Keep up the great storyline, great art and tell the folks who want it all wrapped up and nice and no one really ever gets hurt or killed that DC has a team book just for them--which this doesn't resemble at all, to answer your question from #3, except that they are both team books.

Steve Marusich
Beltsville, MD

What!? DC does team books? We ARE ripping them off! Somebody get me Bendis!!!

New Andy,

When JLA re-launched in the mid-90s, I knew who everybody on the team was and had since I was about four years old...except Martian Manhunter, who I learned about when I was 14 and started reading comic books. By contrast, I have no idea who Sentry is, and wouldn't know who Luke Cage was if I hadn't started reading Marvel a couple of years back.

Secondly, within the first issue of JLA, all but one member of the team had joined up, with the seventh joining in issue two. Here we are on issue five of NEW AVENGERS and members are still trickling in with some yet to appear.

Finally, JLA could fit an entire story into a single issue. NEW AVENGERS has taken five issues for the first story and it apparently ain't over yet.

I'm not trying to bash NA or anything, but, well, you did ask. It was a good issue, but, what was up with that one scene, where there are two shirtless dudes hanging out on a throne overlooking a half-dozen naked people hanging from the ceiling...? Bendis, please explain yourself.

J. C. Raphael
(via e-mail)

Thanks, J.C. You represent the minority on this one, though I suspect if a certain other book had asked this question in its letters page (if only it had one… sigh) we might have seen a different slant. As for the pacing, I hope it grows on you. We've got some shorter stories coming your way starting with this very issue! The 3-part "RONIN" story starts right here! And speaking of naked people (hey, you brought it up), issue #14 is the first issue of a 2-parter illustrated by Frank (SHANNA THE SHE-DEVIL) Cho.

Dear NEW AVENGERS,

Earth's Mightiest Heroes will always be easily compared with their Distinguished Competition's flagship team. JL fans know they've seen their own drastic roster changes. An iconic group of God-like beings who congregate in their orbiting satellite is more celestial than human. Yet with a God of Thunder counted amongst their ranks, The Avengers are by all means a "World's Finest" team in their own right. Especially now, considering the star power of Spider-Man, Wolverine and even The Sentry.

However, in my humble opinion, if you were to line one team up against its counterpart you'd see more of a contrast then a parallel. If DC and Marvel heroes were drafted by the NBA, The Justice League would be the squeaky clean, smooth Los Angeles Lakers. The Avengers, a scrappier, grittier group, would probably play for the Philadelphia 76ers. And if you can't follow me, think about Allen Iverson's pins in his ankle taking it to the hole against the mammoth Shaq and tell me you don't immediately equate that with Logan on Sabertooth or Spidey tackling Firelord!

Marvel's definitive irony puts an under-doggish spin on its premiere super team. Their resident playboy philanthropist is a reformed alcoholic. Their leader is somebody your grandmother probably sang show tunes with in her high school glee club.

And you guys finally enlisted Spider-Man, much like the Dark Knight who has fit right in with a best of the best team despite his loner persona. What took so long for this to happen?

No more government funding? Stark lost his fortune? Agoraphobic flying super-human guys? Web-wedgies? This is no JLA.

Matt Swift
Pensacola,FL

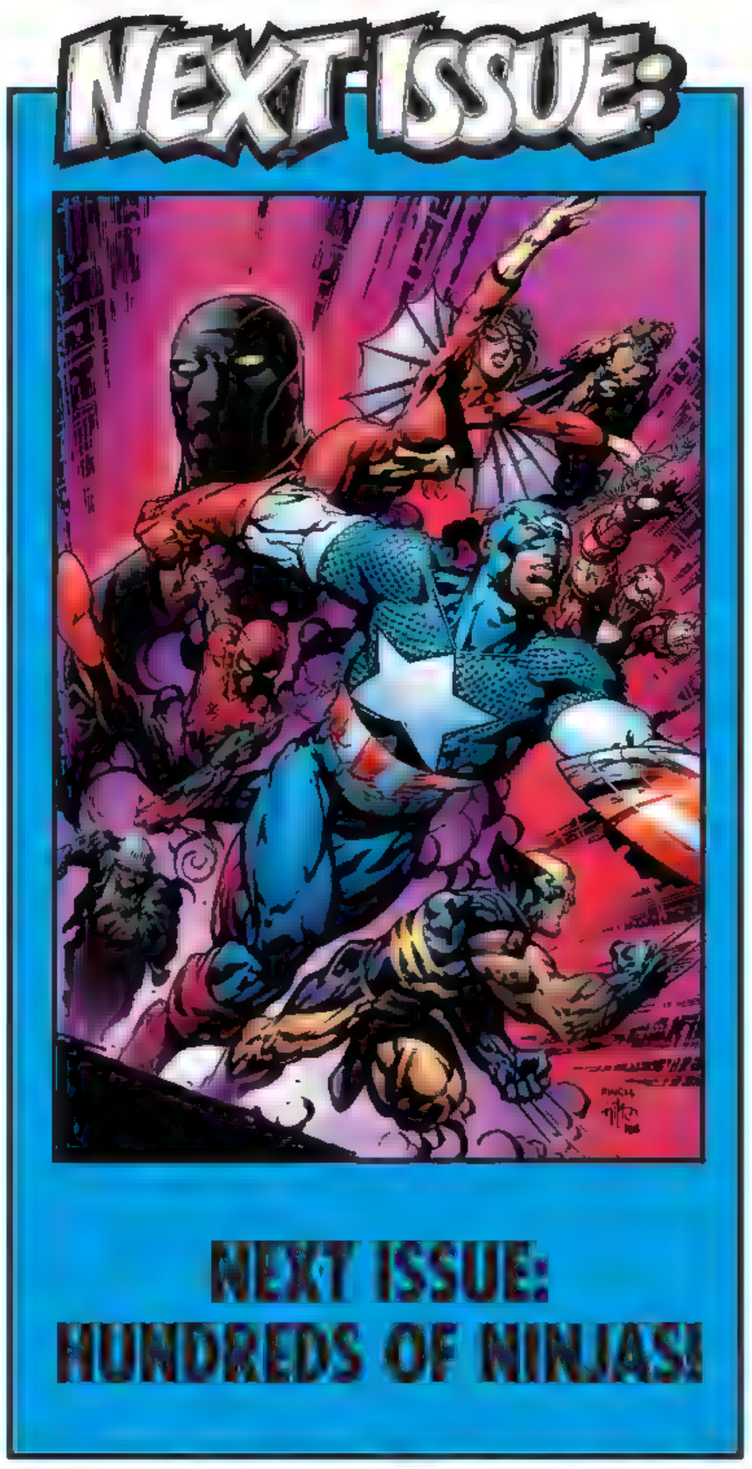
Matt, I had to print that. I have no idea what half of it means as I don't follow the NBA. College ball is the way to go. But any time someone throws Shaq and Iverson in a NEW AVENGERS letter, there's something poetic going on. Thanks.

Web-wedgies. I like that.

That's it for today. Next time we'll see what you thought of the 4-part "SENTRY" storyline and Steve McNiven's art!

Thanks for all your continued support.

-New Andy



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THE NEW AVENGERS®

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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand! Stan Lee presents…

THE NEW AVENGERS

A massive super-villain riot at the high-tech maximum security prison known as the Raft brings together the heroes who would become the New Avengers--Captain America, Iron Man, Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Spider-Woman, and the mysterious powerhouse known as the Sentry. One member of the hero community who aided in the fight refused to join the newly-formed team--Matt Murdock, known throughout Hell's Kitchen as Daredevil.

When Captain America is given information that the Silver Samurai, one of the Raft's escapees, has returned to Japan, he goes to Murdock to ask for help. Murdock's personal problems prevent him from aiding the New Avengers, but he offers the services of a mysterious friend--Ronin.

Cap sends Ronin to Japan to infiltrate the Clan Yashida, a family of Japanese Yakuza. Ronin discovers that the Hand--a ritualistic cult of ninjas--along with Silver Samurai's old partner Viper, a.k.a. Madame Hydra, is recruiting the Silver Samurai.

Ronin is attacked by an army of Hand assassins and followed back to Tony Stark's Osaka penthouse apartment. The rest of the New Avengers, awaiting Ronin's return, find themselves faced with hundreds of ninjas…

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Production	Assistant Editors	Associate Editor	Editor	Editor In Chief	Publisher
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FORTRESS YASHIDA
OSAKA, JAPAN
15 MINUTES AGO

〈KENUICHIO HARADA, IT IS OUR HONOR TO BRING YOU BACK TO THE PLACE OF YOUR BIRTH.〉

〈IT IS OUR HONOR TO BRING THE GREAT SILVER SAMURAI BACK TO FORTRESS YASHIDA--〉

〈--WHERE HE BELONGS.〉

〈KURODA, IF YOU BROUGHT ME HERE JUST SO THE HAND CAN KILL ME, LET IT BE KNOWN THAT--〉

〈MASTER HARADA, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOUR FAMILY AND THE HAND HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT STRAINED IN THE PAST...〉

〈...BUT I ASSURE YOU... YOU ARE MISREADING THE INTENDED TONE OF OUR REUNION.〉

〈WE BRING YOU GIFTS.〉

〈JAPAN NEEDS THE CLAN YASHIDA IN PLACE AND THE SILVER SAMURAI AT ITS HEAD.〉

〈THAT IS WHY WE HAD MEMBERS OF THE HAND SEARCHING ALL OVER THE WORLD FOR YOU.〉

〈WE HAD NO IDEA S.H.I.E.L.D. HAD YOU IN CUSTODY UNTIL YOU WERE LUCKY ENOUGH TO ESCAPE.〉

〈WHY WERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?〉

〈I DON'T UNDERSTAND.〉

WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW HOW THE NEW WORLD WORKS.

S.H.I.E.L.D. HAS FALLEN APART. IT'S ROTTEN FROM THE INSIDE.

I TELL YOU-- AS MUCH AS I WANTED NICK FURY'S BLOOD ON MY HANDS AS HE GURGLED HIS LAST BREATH...

...YOU HAVE TO ADMIRE THE FACT THAT HE KEPT S.H.I.E.L.D. TOGETHER BY SHEER FORCE OF WILL.

WITHOUT HIM... ROTTEN.

MADAME HYDRA.

THAT'S HOW YOU, THE SILVER SAMURAI, CAN BE PULLED OFF A PRIVATE PLANE AND DETAINED WITHOUT ANYONE KNOWING IT HAPPENED.

THEY'RE ROTTEN.

AND HYDRA, MY HYDRA, IS EVEN WORSE OFF.

"CUT OFF ONE OF OUR HEADS AND TWO MORE GROW IN ITS PLACE."

WELL, IT SEEMS THAT LATELY THAT MEANS ONE HEAD GOES ***THIS*** WAY AND THE OTHER GOES ***THAT*** WAY.

IT SICKENS ME ON A PROFOUND LEVEL.

MY ENTIRE LIFE DEDICATED TO AN IDEAL THAT IS BEING TWISTED ***INTO*** ITSELF BY SELFISH AMATEURS.

NOW HYDRA HAS BECOME A GROUP WITHOUT MEANING OR PURPOSE.

NOT BEING ABLE TO ADAPT ITSELF TO THE FUTURE.

THAT'S WHY I AM SO VERY GLAD TO SEE ***YOU*** AGAIN, KENNY.

DON'T BE THAT WAY, KEN.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IS GOING ON HERE OR WHAT YOU PEOPLE WANT FROM ME.

I KNOW.

〈SIR, MY PARDONS.〉

〈WHAT IS IT?〉

〈THERE'S AN INTRUDER IN THE EAST WING.〉

〈WELL... TAKE CARE OF IT.〉

〈BRING HIM HERE.〉

〈THEY FOLLOWED ME HERE FROM THE STATES.〉

〈WHICH HEROES?〉

STARK ENTERPRISES PENTHOUSE
OSAKA, JAPAN
NOW

ANYONE SPEAK JAPANESE?

A LITTLE.

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'RE SAYING?

JUST PICKING UP BITS AND PIECES, BUT SOMETHING ABOUT US DYING A THOUSAND DEATHS AND OUR BLOOD WILL RUN THROUGH THE STREETS OF OSAKA...

I *KNEW* THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT US!

HEY, GUYS...

...AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO THINKS BEING AN AVENGER SOUNDED A LOT COOLER IN THE ABSTRACT?

GENTLEMEN OF THE HAND, STAND DOWN. YOU ARE TRESPASSING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY!

DUDE, I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF A HUMOROUS QUIP.

CAP'S LINE WAS FUNNIER.

SIR?

SORRY TO INVOLVE YOU IN THIS, JARVIS, I DIDN'T THINK THE FIGHT WOULD COME RIGHT TO US.

PART OF THE JOB, MR. STARK, SIR. BUT I DO APPRECIATE YOU LOOKING OUT FOR ME.

WELL, I'D LIKE TO THANK OUR NEW MYSTERY NINJA AVENGER, WHOEVER YOU ARE, FOR BRINGING THESE GUYS RIGHT TO *US* FOR A CHANGE.

BECAUSE...?

WE DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO LEAVE THE APARTMENT OR ANYTHING.

THAT'S TRUE, ACTUALLY.

AFTER A LONG FLIGHT, IT'S NICE FOR THE NINJAS TO MEET US HALFWAY LIKE THIS.

IT'S POLITE.

YOU REALLY HAVE NO *"SHTICK OFF-SWITCH,"* DO YOU?

I'M JUST BABBLING BECAUSE EVERY TIME YOU FIGHT NINJAS--

--THEY DO IT ALL NINJA QUIET LIKE--

--AND CLEARLY SILENCES MAKE ME UNCOMFORTABLE.

CLEARLY.

SIGH...

...I REALLY LIKED THIS PENTHOUSE.

WE SHOULD PROBABLY TAKE THIS FIGHT UP ONTO THE ROOF.

I COULD ASK THEM FOR A TIME-OUT.

HEY! *CAP* MADE A FUNNY.

IF YOU PEOPLE KNEW HOW MUCH THIS ARTWORK COST, YOU'D CRY.

I'M PRETTY SURE I *AM* CRYING.

I CAN BE FUNNY.

UH-HUH.

EVERYONE GET BEHIND ME, I CAN CONCUSSION BLAST AND KNOCK THE HELL OUT OF A BUNCH AT--

WELL, I'D JUST LIKE TO KNOW *WHY* WE'RE--

=OOF!=

UH, GUYS...

CHRISTMAS!

UH, LUKE!

DAMN!

LUKE!

AGH!

SLICCEE

BOOM

KEEP FIGHTING, I'LL GO--

WAIT

AGH!

WHY WAS I ARRESTED?
YOU WERE NOT ARRESTED.
YOU WERE KIDNAPPED.
HELD AGAINST YOUR WILL.
WHY?
MY GUESS IS S.H.I.E.L.D. WAS GOING TO FIGURE OUT A WAY TO USE YOU...
...AND IF THEY COULDN'T, THEY WERE GOING TO KILL YOU.
WHY ME?
BECAUSE ANYONE TRYING TO USE THE MIGHTY S.H.I.E.L.D. TO POWER BROKER ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD...
...SHOULD BE, AND OBVIOUSLY WAS, TERRIFIED OF SOMETHING JUST LIKE THIS CONVERSATION TAKING PLACE.
RIGHT HERE.
YOUR NAME AND YOUR NAME ALONE HOLDS CONTROL OVER THE ENTIRE JAPANESE UNDERWORLD...
THE ONLY THING STOPPING YOU FROM RUNNING IT IS YOUR WILLINGNESS TO.
AND I'M TELLING YOU, FROM A BASE THE SIZE OF THE HOUSE OF YASHIDA--
--FROM YOUR STRONG ARM OVER THIS COUNTRY--
--WE CAN BUILD A POWER BASE AGAINST THEM.
THE HAND-- IS THE FIST--
--YOU ARE THE ARM--
AND YOU'RE THE BRAIN?
WE ALL ARE.
WHO? WHO WOULD WE BE "POWERING UP" TO FIGHT?
HYDRA AND S.H.I.E.L.D.
MORE TO THE POINT, THE PEOPLE WHO ARE REALLY RUNNING THEM.
AND WHO IS THAT?

I'LL TELL YOU ONCE I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU AGAIN.

YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY OOZING THAT TRUSTWORTHINESS HERE.

BECAUSE I KNOW THAT LOOK, VIPER.

THAT'S THE LOOK YOU MAKE WHEN YOU PLAY YOUR GAMES.

IT'S THE FACE I MAKE WHEN I KNOW I'M RIGHT.

WE'RE HERE TO *SAVE* YOU.

THE SYSTEM WE WERE FIGHTING AGAINST--S.H.I.E.L.D.--AND THE SYSTEM WE WERE USING TO FIGHT AGAINST IT--HYDRA--ARE ROTTING.

A NEW WORLDWIDE CORPORATE POWER STRUGGLE FOR *THIS* GENERATION IS GOING TO FORM IN ITS PLACE.

AND I'M SAYING YOU NEED TO REEVALUATE YOUR PLACE IN THIS WORLD.

BECAUSE EITHER YOU *STEP* UP OR THEY'RE GOING TO *ASSASSINATE* YOU.

YOU HAVE TO MAKE A LIFE DECISION HERE, KENNY.

SIR? MY APOLOGIES.

WHERE'S THIS INTRUDER?

HE FLED. WE PURSUED HIM. THE BATTLE IS UNDERWAY.

BATTLE?

THE MASKED INTRUDER CAME HERE WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF AMERICAN COSTUMED HEROES.

WE'VE ENGAGED THEM.

WHO TOLD YOU TO DO THAT?!

AIN'T NOTHIN' GONNA BREAK MY STRIDE
NOBODY GONNA SLOW ME DOWN, OH, NO,
I GOT TO KEEP ON MOVIN'

13

AIN'T NOTHIN' GONNA
BREAKA MY STRIDE

19

I'M RUNNING AND
I WON'T TOUCH GROUND

P

OH, NO, I GOT TO
KEEP ON MOVIN'

P^PNG

I'M BACK!

YOU DIDN'T HAPPEN TO BRING THE X-MEN WITH YOU?

BOY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU HAND NINJAS USE IN YOUR LAUNDRY...

...BUT YOU GUYS SMELL LIKE A GARDEN OF LILACS.

IT'S REALLY QUITE LOVELY.

YOU EVER GET A WHIFF OF DOCTOR DOOM?

OH, I KNOW!

HE HASN'T WASHED THAT GREEN CAPE OF HIS SINCE THE KREE-SKRULL WAR.

WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ABOUT NOW?

YOU'RE RIGHT, FIGHT'S GONE ON TOO LONG. I'M OUT OF MATERIAL.

THEN IT WAS WORTH IT.

HHAA!!

I CAN WRAP THIS UP NOW.

ARE YOU OKAY?

I'M BACK ON LINE. I'M OKAY.

TRY TO WORK YOUR WAY BEHIND ME, AND I CAN END THIS WITH A COUPLE OF WELL-PLACED--

<RETREAT! REGROUP! LEAVE NO MAN BEHIND!>

WELL, THAT WAS RUDE...

THEY QUIT?

THEY WERE TOLD TO PULL BACK.

THEY WANT US TO FOLLOW.

NO.

SURE THEY DO.

NO.

I THINK THEY ATTACKED US WITHOUT PERMISSION.

WELL, THEN I HOPE SOMEONE DOCKS THEIR NINJA PAY.

WHO *ARE* YOU?

I'M SO SORRY THIS HAPPENED. I WOULD NEVER HAVE BROUGHT THIS FIGHT TO YOU.

I THOUGHT I HAD LOST THEM IN THE CAVERNS OF THE CITY.

NO ONE'S BLAMING YOU FOR THIS AT ALL.

YOU DID WHAT I ASKED YOU TO. *THEY* ATTACKED US, NOT YOU. YOU FOUGHT ADMIRABLY.

WHO IS THIS?

UH, GUYS...

...WHERE'S SPIDER-WOMAN?

JESSICA?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE, AGENT DREW?

WE HAD A DEAL.

THE DEAL IS--

SHUT YOUR MOUTH!

THE DEAL IS YOU GET YOUR POWERS AND WE OWN YOU. ***THAT'S*** THE DEAL.

YOU AND YOUR LITTLE PALS FLY ANYWHERE TO DO ANYTHING, YOU ***TELL*** YOUR CONTACT AND ***HE*** TELLS ME.

YOU COME HERE? TO JAPAN? KNOWING WHAT IS AT STAKE AND YOU DON'T TELL US?

I SHOULD KILL YOU RIGHT HERE, YOU FAT PIG.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON HERE. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU WERE ***HERE.***

THIS $%^# HAPPENS SO FAST WITH THESE GUYS, I DON'T HAVE TIME TO GO HOME AND FEED MY--

YOU LIKE YOUR POWERS, LI'L JESSICA?

YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO WHAT YOUR LIFE WAS BEFORE?

MISERABLE. JUST ONE OF ***THEM.*** YOU ***WANT*** THAT?

WE GAVE YOU YOUR POWERS BACK, AND WE CAN TAKE THEM AWAY.

NOW HIT ME WITH A VENOM BLAST AND TAKE ME DOWN.

AND WHEN I SAY SO, YOU LET ME GO. YOU ***GOT*** IT?

HIT YOU?

NOW.

WHAT ARE YOU ***TALKING*** ABOUT?

YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS ARE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

HIT ME.

AGH!

YAGH!

ZZZAAATMMT

YAGH!

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA... NICE SHOOTIN', TEX.

WHY'D YOU TAKE OFF LIKE THAT?

I--I DIDN'T WANT HER TO SNEAK AWAY AGAIN. S.H.I.E.L.D.'S BEEN CHASING HER FOR YEARS.

I'VE *HAD* IT WITH HER.

WHAT DID SHE SAY?

WHAT?

WE SAW YOU TALKING TO HER.

SHE--SHE SAID WHAT SHE ALWAYS SAYS. AND THEN SHE CALLED ME FAT, SO I BLASTED HER.

SHE JUST STOOD THERE AND LET YOU?

ARE YOU KIDDING? SHE WAS ABOUT TO LUNGE.

YOU DON'T RUN OFF BY YOURSELF, OKAY? WE'RE A TEAM.

NO, YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SORRY.

IT'S A NEW WORLD TO ME, ALL THIS. YEARS AS A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT--YOU JUST KIND OF GO OFF BY YOURSELF AS SOON AS YOU HAVE THE INTEL.

SPIDEY, WEB HER HANDS BEHIND HER BACK AND WEB HER FEET TOGETHER.

WHAT ARE WE DOING? JUST TAKING HYDRA GIRL HOME WITH US?

SHE'S A WANTED TERRORIST. TOP TEN INTERPOL.

YOU GUYS MIGHT SEE SOME SERIOUS BANK FOR THIS.

I LIKE BANK.

WHAT ABOUT THE SILVER SAMURAI?

JUST GUESSING... IS THAT HIM?

OY.

TO BE CONCLUDED...

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BENDIS
FINCH
MIKI
D'ARMATA

THE NEW AVENGERS®

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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand! Stan Lee presents…

THE NEW AVENGERS

A massive super-villain riot at the high-tech maximum security prison known as the Raft brings together the heroes who would become the New Avengers—Captain America, Iron Man, Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Spider-Woman, and the mysterious powerhouse known as the Sentry. One member of the hero community who aided in the fight refused to join the newly-formed team—Matt Murdock, known throughout Hell's Kitchen as Daredevil.

When Captain America is given information that the Silver Samurai, one of the Raft's escapees, has returned to Japan, he asks Murdock for help. Murdock's personal problems prevent him from aiding the New Avengers, but he offers the services of a mysterious friend—Ronin.

Cap sends Ronin to infiltrate the Clan Yashida, a family of Japanese Yakuza. Ronin discovers that the Hand—a ritualistic cult of ninjas—along with Silver Samurai's old partner Viper, a.k.a. Madame Hydra, is recruiting the Silver Samurai.

Spider-Woman captures Madame Hydra by herself, but the capture is nothing more than a ruse. Spider-Woman is betraying the Avengers and S.H.I.E.L.D. by selling her services to Hydra and another mystery faction.

Ronin is attacked by an army of Hand assassins and followed back to Tony Stark's Osaka penthouse apartment. The Avengers fight the Hand and eventually take the fight back to the fortress Yashida, only to find themselves faced with the Silver Samurai leading a small army of Hand assassins.

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AMERICAN HEROES IN JAPAN.

WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE?

WE'RE THE AVENGERS, AND WE'RE HERE TO PUT AN END TO THIS BEFORE IT BEGINS.

THERE WILL BE *NO* HAND POWER BASE HERE.

AND *ALL OF YOU* WILL *STAND DOWN!*

I WAS KIDNAPPED, CAPTAIN. DO YOU KNOW THAT? BY *YOUR* COUNTRY.

WHO ARE YOU THAT YOU WOULD DEFEND THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOR?

(WHAT ARE YOU DOING? DON'T TALK TO THEM. TAKE THEM!)

(DEFEND THE WALLS OF YOUR HOUSE YASHIDA!)

WHY WAS I PUT IN AMERICAN CUSTODY WITHOUT TRIAL?

WE CAME HERE SPECIFICALLY TO FIND OUT JUST THAT!
BUT THE PEOPLE YOU'RE ASSOCIATING WITH HERE ARE KNOWN TERRORISTS AND ASSASSINS!

DROP YOUR WEAPON, HARADA!

(TAKE THEM, SAMURAI!)

(LEAD!)

HHUUAARRGGHH!

HNN--!

AVENGERS!

NO, STAND BACK!

JEEZ!

I GOT IT.

THE HELL DID YOU JUST--?

CONCUSSION BLAST.

FORTY-NINE MORE COMING IN ON THE--

HOLD ON-- I'M DOING ENVIRONMENT READINGS.

I'M POOPING IN MY TIGHTS.

THERE.

FSHAM

AGH!

I DIDN'T GET TO HIT *ANYTHING* THAT TIME.

SORRY ABOUT THE TREES, HARADA.

WHY DIDN'T YOU DO THAT BEFORE WITH THE KNOCKING THEM ALL DOWN WITH THE BIG BLASTERS ALL AT ONCE?

IT'S FINE.

YOU WERE ALL BOUNCING IN FRONT OF ME.

THAT'S WHY THE HAND ATTACKED US IN CLOSE QUARTERS BEFORE INSTEAD OF LURING US OUT OR SEPARATING US.

EXACTLY. THESE ARE THE WORLD'S GREATEST TRAINED HAND-TO-HAND FIGHTERS. YOU TURNED IT AROUND BY BRINGING THE FIGHT *TO* THEM.

HOLD ON--THREE MORE.

THWAP

THWAP

THANK YOU FOR COMING. LET'S SEE IF WE CAN MAKE SOME SENSE OF THIS NOW BECAUSE I--

I DON'T EVEN WANT TO *HEAR IT!*

SMACK

HEY!
WHAT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT WE *CAME HERE FOR!*
MAN, IF WE WOULDN'TA SHOWED UP IN HIS FACE, HE'D BE WEARING A HYDRA ROBE AND DOIN' THE ROBOT.
*LUKE, LUKE, LUKE, HARADA **WAS** ONE OF THE S.H.I.E.L.D. FILES WE COULDN'T MATCH. HE **WAS** DECLARED DEAD.*
FINE. HE'S STILL A PIECE OF GARBAGE--
HE'S--
HE'S SO DEEP IN ALL THIS CRAP OUT HERE...
HE'S NOT LYING ABOUT THIS, AND WE CAN'T JUST ARREST HIM. THINGS ARE MORE COMPLICATED THAN--
COMPLICATED?! I GOT TOSSED OUT OF A SKYSCRAPER OVER THIS PIECE OF CRAP!
DIDN'T YOU GO TO PRISON ONCE? ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
ARE YOU THE SAME MAN YOU WERE THEN?
WE CAME HERE TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO DO. WHAT HAD HAPPENED--
THAT-- I ***GUESS*** THAT ALL DEPENDS ON WHY I WAS KIDNAPPED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT.
YOU WERE ***NOT*** KIDNAPPED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.
THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH ***S.H.I.E.L.D.***, AND WE'RE TRYING TO PIECE IT TOGETHER QUICKLY.
IT WOULD BE A HUGE HELP IF YOU TOLD US ***EXACTLY*** WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.

A MONTH AGO, I WENT TO SLEEP IN MY PRIVATE PLANE AND WOKE UP IN A DARK CELL IN THAT RAFT PRISON.

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I WAS IN NEW YORK UNTIL THE PRISON RIOT.

I GOT THE HELL OUT OF THERE, ONLY TO INSTANTLY BE PICKED UP BY MEMBERS OF THE ***HAND,*** WHO TOLD ***ME*** THEY WERE JAPANESE SECRET SERVICE FOR PRIME MINISTER JUNICHIRO KOIZUMI, ESCORTING ME OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

I WAS BROUGHT HERE, TO MY OWN ANCESTRAL HOME...

...SO THE HAND AND HYDRA COULD TAKE TURNS RUBBING MY BACK--TELLING ME HOW ***THIS*** IS WHERE IT WILL ALL START FOR THEM IN THIS NEW WORLD POWER STRUGGLE.

AND NOW HERE ***YOU*** ALL ARE.

HI, JESSICA.

HYDRA AND THE HAND TOGETHER?

MADAME HYDRA THERE SAID S.H.I.E.L.D. IS ROTTEN AND SO IS HYDRA. IS SHE RIGHT?

LIKE THE MAN SAID--WE'RE STILL PUTTING IT TOGETHER.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO HERE, HARADA?

MY HAND WAS FORCED HERE.

I'M GOING TO NEED TO TAKE MY HOUSE BACK AND PUT SOME SORT OF SPOTLIGHT ON MYSELF TO KEEP MYSELF SAFE.

YOU TELL YOUR MASTERS THAT I'M GOING TO TELL THE WORLD WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME HERE.

AND YOU TELL THEM THAT THE ONLY THING KEEPING ME FROM TURNING THIS HOUSE INTO SOMETHING FOR THEM TO TRULY FEAR IS MY FATHER'S NAME ON THE DOOR.

BUT IF YOUR COUNTRY COMES NEAR ME AGAIN...

IT'S NOT OUR COUNTRY.

THE AUTHORITIES ARE COMING.
JUST IN TIME.
GO.
I'M GOING TO TAKE FULL CREDIT FOR THE HAND'S DOWNFALL HERE.
AND I'M WARNING YOU, IT'S GOING TO BE PUBLIC AND IT'S GOING TO BE LOUD.
DO WHAT YOU GOTTA.
WE'RE TAKING HER.
NO.
SHE STAYS HERE AND SHE PAYS THE--
I'M AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. SHE'S A WANTED TERRORIST.
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY I'M LEAVING THIS COUNTRY WITHOUT HER.
THERE'S A HISTORY HERE.
I KNOW.

YOU KNOW, GUYS, I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK DURING THAT ENTIRE THING THAT IF THE SENTRY WAS THERE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OVER IN THREE MINUTES.

HE'S NOT READY YET. WHEN HE'S READY.

I'M SAYING-- I'M READY FOR HIM TO BE READY.

ME TOO.

THE SILVER SAMURAI ALREADY TOOK IT TO THE PRESS.

I'M WATCHING.

IS HE BLAMING AMERICA?

YEP.

THIS DRIVES ME INSANE.

HE WAS HELD ON AMERICAN SOIL AGAINST HIS WILL.

I KNOW.

AND YOU KNOW WE'LL HAVE TO, TOO.

WHAT?

TAKE IT TO THE PRESS.

THE WHOLE THING? WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SAVAGE LAND?

NO. THAT'LL DO NOTHING. WE CAN'T PROVE IT.

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE AVENGERS. WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE A SHOW OF IT, LIKE WE USED TO.

THE SENTRY'S WATCHTOWER IS ALREADY A BIT GLARING. WE WEREN'T GOING TO BE ABLE TO HOLD THE PRESS BACK MUCH LONGER.

NOW...WE'LL USE IT TO OUR ADVANTAGE.

WE'VE FOUGHT THIS FIGHT FOR YEARS.

WHY IS THIS ONE GETTING TO YOU SO MUCH?

HI—I'M THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, AND YOU ARE?
HELLO?
COME ON, WHO ARE YOU?
CAPTAIN AMERICA INVITED ME.
EXIT
YEAH, I KNOW. WHO *ARE* YOU?
I'M SORRY.
I HAVE NO NAME YOU'D RECOGNIZE.
YOU'RE A FRIEND OF MATT MURDOCK. RIGHT? ME TOO.
HAVE WE MET?
A FRIEND OF MATT MURDOCK WHO BEATS NINJA BUTT.
HMM... ARE YOU IRON FIST?
YO, MAN, IF IT WAS IRON FIST, DON'T YOU THINK I'D KNOW?
IS IT SHANG CHI?
DOES THAT *SOUND* LIKE SHANG CHI?
THAT'S HOW SHANG CHI SOUNDS WHEN HE IGNORES ME.
LEAVE IT BE.
ARE YOU FOGGY NELSON?
ALAN DERSHOWITZ?
LEAVE IT BE.
JUST WANTED TO TAKE MY MASK OFF AND TAKE A NAP.
I HATE THAT JOKE.
LIKE THERE'S ANYONE LEFT WHO HASN'T SEEN YOU WITHOUT YOUR MASK.

ATCH DOOR
MERGENCY
OVERRIDE

ATCH DOOR
MERGENCY
OVERRIDE

YOU KNOW WHAT--?

I WANT TO CHECK MY--

DOOR
VERRI

DOOR
VERRI

BOOM

AGH!

WHOA!

ARGH!

CAP!!

HOLD ON!

NNNOOOO!

GO AFTER HIM. I CAN FLY THIS.

GO!

IT'S NOT LIKE A PLANE!!

AAAAGGGHHHHH!!!

GOD, PLEASE NO!

PLEASE...

GOT YA.

CLOSE ONE.

MADAME HYDRA'S GONE. THERE'RE NO LIFESIGN READINGS.

ARE YOU OKAY, JARVIS?

QUITE A NIGHT, SIR.

WE'LL GET YOU HOME.

YES, THAT WOULD BE GOOD.

I-I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. THE OVERRIDE HIT AND BEFORE I EVEN KNEW WHAT IT WAS--

MADAME HYDRA'S DEAD?

I'M SORRY.

NO.

HOW COULD SHE SURVIVE THAT ALL WEBBED UP---?

SHE DID. TRUST ME.

DID SHE HAVE A GIZMO IN HER BOOT OR SOMETHING?

DIDN'T SOMEONE FRISK HER?

YES.

CAPTAIN, I'M TRULY SORRY THIS WENT SO BADLY.

YOU DID NOTHING WRONG.

JUST SO YOU KNOW-- I'LL BE GOING BACK TO JAPAN TO MAKE SURE HARADA DOESN'T BUCKLE UNDER THE PRESSURE.

HE HAS IN THE PAST.

I HEAR ELEKTRA NACHIOS IS RUNNING THE HAND NOW. SHE *WILL* COME LOOKING FOR HER MEN.

OR FOR REVENGE.

MY SENSEI USED TO SAY THAT THE WAR BETWEEN THE HAND AND THE YASHIDA GOES BACK CENTURIES AND THAT IT WOULDN'T END IN OUR LIFETIME.

BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'S TRUE. IT *HAS* TO END.

PLUS, I MADE YOU AND MURDOCK A PROMISE, CAPTAIN, THAT I HAVE NOT LIVED UP TO.

BEFORE HE DIED-- A FRIEND OF OURS SAID THAT THE AVENGERS NEVER FOLLOWED THROUGH ON THINGS--

WE ALWAYS JUMPED FROM ONE DRAMA TO THE NEXT--IT'S JUST THE NATURE OF THIS KIND OF TEAM.

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT HE SAID A LOT. WE DO NEED TO FOLLOW THIS UP.

HEY, IF YOU'RE WILLING TO DO ALL THIS--I'LL FUND IT.

IF YOU NEED THE TEAM--AND YOU WILL--YOU CALL US. IF YOU NEED TO PUT TOGETHER ANOTHER TEAM--

DO YOU NEED FINANCING?

I DON'T NEED MONEY. I HAVE PLENTY.

HOW DID YOU KNOW HOW TO FLY A QUINJET THAT I DESIGNED AND NEVER SHOWED TO ANYONE ELSE IN THE ENTIRE WORLD?

HE WANTS TO KNOW HOW YOU FLEW THE QUINJET.

I SAW *IRON MAN* FLY IT.

YOU SAW ME FLY IT.

THAT'S WHAT I DO. IF I SEE SOMEONE DO SOMETHING-- I CAN DO IT TOO.

I DIDN'T REALIZE YOUR INTENSE FEELINGS ABOUT JAPAN WHEN WE INITIALLY DISCUSSED IT--

ARE YOU REALLY WILLING TO GO THE DISTANCE WITH US ON THIS?

WHO IS THIS?

HE WANTS TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

MY NAME IS MAYA LOPEZ.

THEY ALSO CALL ME ECHO.

HEY, CAP...

HEY.

ROUGH NIGHT.

YEAH.

SO...

...WHO ARE YOU WORKING FOR?

NEXT ISSUE: SECRETS AND LIES

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BENDIS • CHO • KEITH

THE NEW AVENGERS®

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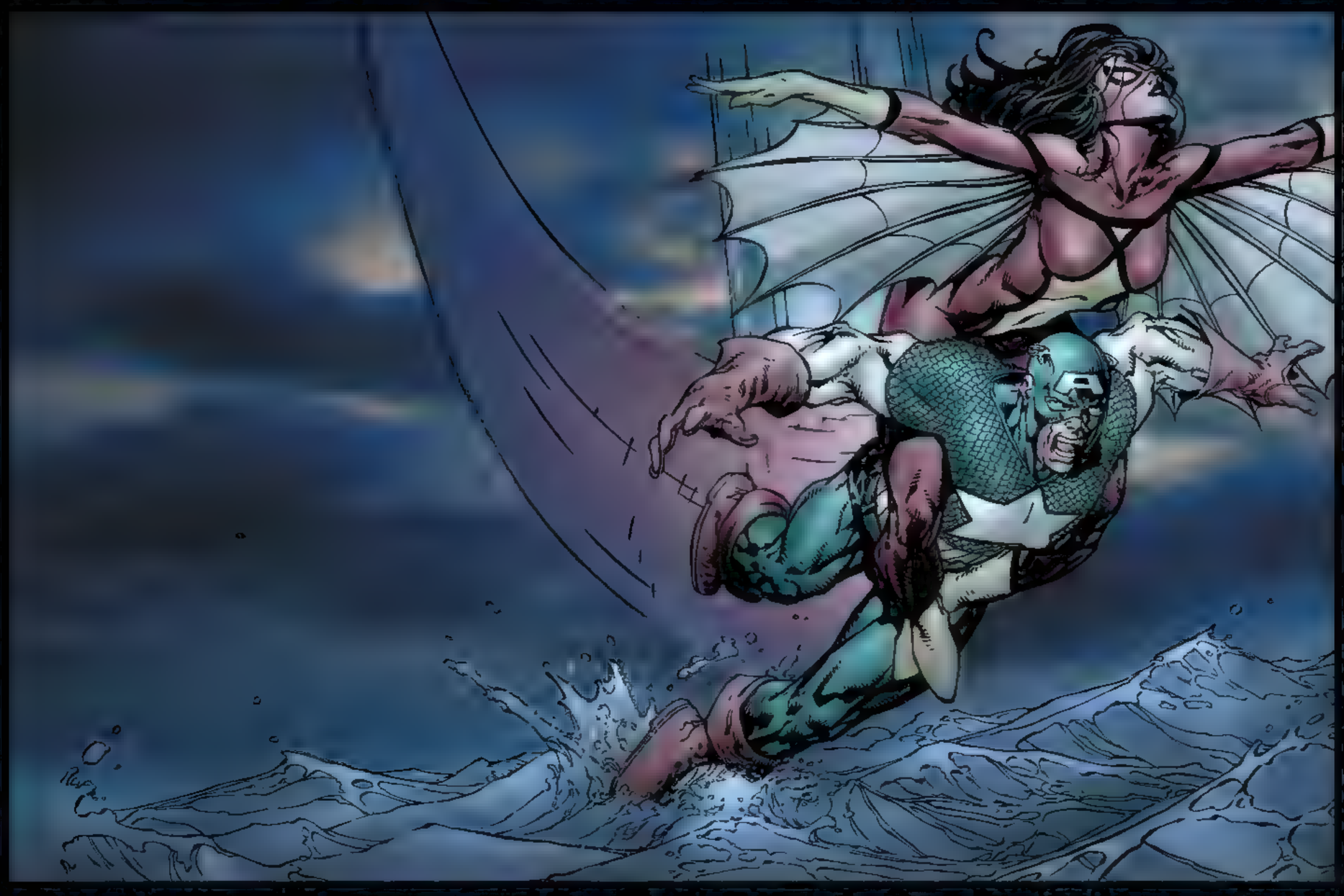
And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand! Stan Lee presents…

THE NEW AVENGERS



A massive super-villain riot at the high-tech maximum security prison known as the Raft brings together the heroes who would become the New Avengers—Captain America, Iron Man, Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Spider-Woman, and the mysterious powerhouse known as the Sentry.

After a tense showdown with Hydra in Japan, Spider-Woman captures Madame Hydra by herself, but the capture is nothing more than a ruse. Jessica Drew is betraying both the Avengers and S.H.I.E.L.D. by selling her services to Hydra and another mystery faction.

When Spider-Woman allows Madame Hydra to escape from a moving Quinjet over open seas, Captain America is almost killed. Spider-Woman saves him from a watery grave, but Cap puts two and two together and confronts Jessica about her crooked alliances.

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DAILY BUG

KAT FARRELL, DAILY BUGLE.

HI, MOM.

NO, MOM. WHAT?

NO.

MOM, STOP.

STOP.

I'M AT WORK.

SPIDER-MAN HERO

SPIDER-MAN HERO

YES.

YOU JUST *CALLED* ME HERE. YOU JUST--*MOM,* UNLESS YOU HAVE A NEWSBREAKING STORY, I HAVE TO GO.

BECAUSE I HAVE NO *STORY.*

I'M A REPORTER WITHOUT A STORY.

AGAIN.

I NEED--WHAT? OUT *WHAT* WINDOW? *YOUR* WINDOW?

WHAT?

(THE WOMAN'S INSANE.)

RIGHT *NOW?* IT LIT UP? WHAT DOES THAT *MEAN:* A BUILDING LIT UP?

MOM, IT'S FIREWORKS.

I'M LOOKING! I'M GOING TO LOOK.

BUT BUILDINGS DON'T JUST LIGHT...

MCSWIGGIN DESTROYS OHIO

...UP.

LIBERTY
MEADOWS

JESSICA?
I ASKED YOU A QUESTION...
WHO ARE YOU WORKING FOR?
COME ON, CAP...
JUST--
IS--
IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN--
CAN I JUST ASK YOU TO *TRUST* ME?
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT?
WHAT DOES MADAME HYDRA HAVE OVER YOU?
SHE'S *PART* OF IT.
WHO?

THIS CONVERSATION ISN'T FAIR TO YOU, CAPTAIN.
HOW SO?
MY GENETICS-- I'M PELTING YOU WITH PHEROMONES. I CAN'T HELP IT.
I'M NERVOUS, AND I'M PELTING YOU WITH PHEROMONES THAT CHEMICALLY ATTRACT YOU TO ME.
I'LL TRY TO CONTROL MYSELF.
HOW LONG HAS THIS BEEN GOING ON?
A WHILE.
BACK UP AND TELL ME EVERYTHING.
DON'T SIT THERE AND TRY TO THINK OF A *LIE* TO TELL ME, AGENT DREW!
I'M NOT. *HEY!* OKAY?
I'M TRYING TO IMAGINE A SCENARIO IN WHICH I TELL YOU WHAT'S HAPPENING SO THAT I DON'T SOMEHOW END UP *DEAD* AFTERWARDS.
WELL, I KNOW *THAT.*
BUT TRUST ME, *YOU'VE* DONE PLENTY ALREADY.
I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU.
WHAT DID *I* DO?
YOU MADE ME AN AVENGER.
ONCE UPON A TIME...

I USED TO BE A SUPER HERO.

YOU READ MY FILE, RIGHT? YOU KNOW MY HISTORY.

I *HAD* THAT SOMETHING SPECIAL THAT MAKES A GOOD SUPER HERO: A COMPLETELY SCREWED UP CHILDHOOD.

I MEAN, HEY, MY DAD, MY GOD-AWFUL FATHER, IS THE ONE THAT POKED AT MY GENETICS AND GAVE ME MY QUOTE/UNQUOTE POWERS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

AND WHAT DO I DO THEN? I GO RUNNING INTO THE HANDS OF HYDRA. A HYDRA AGENT AT 17.

SO THANK GOD FOR NICK FURY.

HE SAW THROUGH ALL MY CRAZINESS THAT I WAS JUST SOME SCREWED-UP TEENAGER.

BECAUSE OF *HIM* I WENT FROM AGENT OF HYDRA TO AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AND THEN HE EVENTUALLY LED ME INTO A NORMAL LIFE.

WELL...AS NORMAL A LIFE AS YOU CAN IN A COSTUME AND WITH FRICKIN' MORGAN LE FEY UP YOUR NOSE...

BUT AS CRAZY AS IT WAS--AND IT WAS TEN LIVES OF CRAZINESS IN ONE--

LOOKING BACK--I WOULDN'T HAVE CHANGED A SECOND.

OF ANY OF IT.

EXCEPT FOR THE PART WHERE MY POWERS WENT AND *CRAPPED OUT* ON ME.

THEY JUST SPUTTERED OUT, OFF THEN ON, THEN OFF AND THEN...OFF AGAIN.

I WAS GROUNDED.

INSTANTLY ONE OF THE TYPICAL.

LIKE EVERY OTHER NINE-TO-FIVER WITH THEIR COMMUTES AND THEIR DOG-WALKING AND WHATEVER THE HELL ELSE THEY DO ALL DAY--

--JUST SITTING THERE GOING OVER ALL THE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES WHEN I *DID* HAVE MY POWERS.

ALL THE ADVENTURES I *SHOULD* HAVE GONE ON.

I *SHOULD* HAVE BEEN AN *AVENGER.* I SHOULD HAVE BEEN--WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER, BUT...

...MY POINT IS...

...I MUST HAVE HAD A BIG OL' "L" TATTOOED RIGHT ON MY FOREHEAD--

BECAUSE HYDRA, OR I SHOULD SAY, ONE OF THEM, CAME LOOKING FOR ME AGAIN.

BARGED RIGHT INTO MY HOUSE, SMACKED ME AROUND TO PROVE A POINT, AND THEN...

MY NAME IS CONNELY.

I'M A FAN.

OF THE *OLD* YOU.

AND I THINK YOU *MORE* THAN DESERVE A SECOND CHANCE.

YOU DESERVE YOUR POWERS, AND YOU DESERVE THIS COSTUME AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT OUT OF LIFE.

BUT MORE *IMPORTANTLY,* YOU DESERVE A PURPOSE AND A DIRECTION.

MEANING.

AND I'M WILLING TO GIVE YOU *ALL* OF THIS.

I CAN GET YOU YOUR POWERS BACK AND GIVE YOUR LIFE PURPOSE.

I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

SEE, WELL, THERE'S THE RUB...

THEY OFFERED ME MY POWERS BACK *IF* I GOT MY S.H.I.E.L.D. STATUS REINSTATED.

DOUBLE AGENT.

YEAH.

JESSICA, YOU *ARE* HYDRA.

IT'S IN YOUR *BLOOD,* IT DOESN'T GO AWAY.

YOUR YOUTH, YOUR MIND, THEY *ARE* HYDRA.

AND INSTEAD OF LIVING THIS MEANINGLESS DAY-TO-DAY EXISTENCE, YOU COULD BE EFFECTING ACTUAL WORLD CHANGE.

YOU COULD BE A SHADOW *WARRIOR* AGAINST THE CORPORATE SYSTEM THAT HAS KIDNAPPED THIS ENTIRE SOCIETY.

YOU CAN WEAR YOUR COSTUME AGAIN, AND YOU CAN PLACE YOURSELF RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE EVENTS THAT WILL SHAPE THIS WORLD.

YEAH.

AND HERE'S THE THING--AND YOU KNOW THIS IS TRUE...

...AN OFFER LIKE *THIS* IS MADE?

BY *HYDRA?*

YOU DON'T SAY: *"EH, I'LL TAKE A PASS."*

YOU SAY "YES" OR THEY *KILL* YOU.

THAT'S WHAT HE WAS OFFERING.

JOIN US OR *DIE.*

I WAS A WEAK LITTLE WORM PERSON. THEY *SAW* THIS, AND THEY *POUNCED* ON ME.

THEY WANTED ME TO CALL FURY AND GET REINSTATED.

I HAD NO CHOICE.

I HAD TO CALL HIM.

JACKPOT RECORDS.

I NEED TO SPEAK TO THE MANAGER.

DO IT.

DO IT. GET YOUR POWERS BACK.

WHAT?!

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR--?

I'LL PUT YOU TO WORK.

I'LL TELL *YOU* WHAT TO FEED THEM. AND YOU'LL FEED *US* WHAT *THEY* TELL YOU.

UGH!

THIS IS GOOD. YEAH.

GOOD? THEY'RE GOING TO *KILL* ME.

THEY'RE GOING TO KILL YOU EITHER WAY. NOTHIN' WE CAN DO ABOUT *THAT.*

THEY TARGETED YOU.

YOU MIGHT AS WELL DO THE RIGHT THING IN THE MEANTIME.

THEY'RE WATCHING US RIGHT NOW.

GOOD. WE *WANT* THEM TO. NOW THEY KNOW YOU CAME TO ME.

BUT THEY CAN'T HEAR US. MY HIGH-TECH DOOHICKEY BEATS THEIR HIGH-TECH DOOHICKEY.

I WANNA SCREAM.

GO AHEAD. THEY CAN'T HEAR YOU.

HERE'S HOW IT'LL WORK...

I'LL FEED YOU STUFF TO GIVE THEM, JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP YOU SAFE AND FOR THEM NOT TO GET SUSPICIOUS.

AND WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, WHEN WE'VE PUSHED IT AS FAR AS WE CAN--

--WE'LL ***SQUASH*** THE ENTIRE CELL.

WE'LL TAKE THEM ALL IN ONE SWOOP.

AND I GET YOU BACK AS AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

WHERE YOU ***BELONG,*** BY THE WAY.

UGH! I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO OFFER ME PLASTIC SURGERY AND A TICKET TO ALASKA.

(SMILE, THEY'RE WATCHING.)

REMEMBER WHEN I RESCUED YOU FROM THE CLUTCHES OF HYDRA AND YOU TOLD ME YOU'D REPAY ME ONE DAY?

WELL, IT'S GOOD YOU'RE NOT HOLDING IT OVER MY HEAD.

LISTEN TO ME-- ***NO*** ONE WILL KNOW ABOUT THIS BUT ***ME*** AND ***YOU.***

THAT'S THE WAY IT ***HAS*** TO BE. NO ONE.

THE ONLY WAY YOU STAY SAFE IS THAT THERE ARE NO WEAK LINKS. OKAY?

NO ONE WILL KNOW.

BUT, HEY... LEAST YA GET YOUR POWERS BACK.

DID THEY HAPPEN TO TELL YOU HOW THEY'RE GONNA DO THAT?

JESSICA, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

DD

OVER TIME, YOUR GENETIC CODES, WHICH YOUR FATHER ALTERED IN YOUR YOUTH, WORKED TO CORRECT THEMSELVES.

YOUR BODY HAS BEEN FIGHTING TO "HEAL" ITSELF TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE.

IT TOOK A FEW MONTHS, BUT WE WERE ABLE TO ISOLATE AND REJUVENATE A SAMPLE OF YOUR GENETIC TISSUE AND CLONE IT.

IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME--

--BUT WE'RE GOING TO GET YOU YOUR POWERS BACK.

I MUST TELL YOU, JESSICA...

...YOUR FATHER WAS *DECADES* AHEAD OF HIS TIME.

YOU ARE AN INSPIRED SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT.

YOU SHOULD BE OH SO PROUD.

HAIL HYDRA.

THING IS--

--I *WANTED* MY POWERS BACK.

SO BAD.

THAT'S WHERE I GET SCREWY IN THE HEAD. I *WANTED* MY POWERS BACK. I *NEEDED* MY POWERS BACK.

I *WANTED* BACK IN THE GAME SO BAD.

I WASN'T DOING THIS FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM! I WASN'T DOING THIS FOR RIGHT!

I WAS SELFISH. I *AM* SELFISH.

I WANTED MY POWERS *BACK.*

HOW LONG DID THE PROCEDURE TAKE?

SEVENTEEN MONTHS.

GIVE OR TAKE.

BUT WHEN IT WAS OVER...

...OH, I GOT MY POWERS BACK...

AND *THEN* SOME.

EVERY *PART* OF ME WAS BETTER THAN IT WAS BEFORE. EVERY PART.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT?

I CAN FLY.

NOT GLIDE, FLY.

I WAS *BACK!*

EXCEPT THAT NOW EVERY SINGLE SECOND OF EVERY SINGLE DAY WAS DEFINED BY *MY* ABILITY TO BE A LYING--

--DOUBLE CROSSING--

--POKER-FACED--

--WEASEL WOMAN.

NICK, HYDRA HAS A SPLINTER GROUP SETTING UP CAMP IN IRAQ. THEY WANT TO HELP THE SADDAM ABED DASAM BUILD HIS--

WE KNOW THAT.

NOW I HEARD THIS THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE, BUT...

...HAVE YOU GUYS HEARD OF A S.H.I.E.L.D. DEFENSE INITIATIVE CALLED THE GOD'S EYE?

HE HAS THE SCORPIO KEY.

THAT I DIDN'T KNOW.

KEEP TALKING.

WHAT DOES THIS CATERPILLAR FILE CONTAIN?

AND JUST WHEN I STOPPED CRYING MYSELF TO SLEEP EVERY NIGHT...

(NO JOKE.)

WHEN I WAS ACTUALLY STARTING TO GET *USED* TO THE FEELING OF NOT KNOWING WHAT SIDE OF MY MOUTH I WAS TALKING OUT OF AND DESPERATELY TRYING TO KEEP TRACK OF THE MINUTE DETAILS OF ALL MY LIES...

THEN YOU GUYS WENT AND HAD YOUR DAMN SECRET WAR.

IT'S ME. LISTEN.

I'M GOING OFF GRID TONIGHT. MAYBE FOR GOOD.

WHAT?

I MADE A SERIOUS TACTICAL ERROR A YEAR AGO IN LATVERIA, AND IT'S COME BACK TO BITE ME ON THE DUGAN.

YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR A LOTTA CRAP ABOUT ME IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS. MOST OF IT'S TRUE.

I'M SORRY, JESS.

IT'S THE END OF THE LINE.

WHAT DID YOU *DO?*

YOU'LL HEAR IT ALL SOON ENOUGH. BUT I'VE MADE ENEMIES OUTTA JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY.

I'M GOING UNDERGROUND.

WHAT DO *I* DO?

WELL, THEY'RE PROBABLY GOING TO ASK YOU TO FIND ME AND KILL ME. GUESS IT'S UP TO *YOU* WHAT YOU DO.

I KNOW THIS STINKS ABOUT AS BAD AS IT CAN.

I WOULD'A NEVER DONE THIS TO YOU ON PURPOSE. YOU KNOW THAT.

NICK?

NICK?!

SO, YEAH, *NO ONE* ELSE AT S.H.I.E.L.D. KNOWS WHAT I'M DOING.

AND WHAT DOES THAT MAKE ME?

I *AM* A TRAITOR. I AM A DOUBLE AGENT.

MY NEW S.H.I.E.L.D. BOSSES. CAN I *TELL* THEM? CAN I *TRUST* THEM? AFTER WHAT WE'VE FOUND OUT IN JUST THIS LAST WEEK? *HELL,* NO.

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT BEING A FURY LOYALIST AS I WAS-- S.H.I.E.L.D. YANKED ME RIGHT OUT OF THE FIELD.

NOW I GET TOSSED THE CRAPOLA ASSIGNMENTS LIKE ESCORTING MATT MURDOCK THROUGH THE RAFT PRISON.

THAT'S WHAT I WAS DOING THERE THAT *"FATEFUL"* DAY THE NEW AVENGERS WERE BORN. I WAS DOING HOSPITALITY DETAIL.

WHICH, UP *UNTIL* THEN, WAS GOOD NEWS BECAUSE IF I DON'T *HAVE* ANY INTEL TO GIVE HYDRA I DON'T HAVE TO *GIVE* HYDRA ANY INTEL.

THAT IS, UNTIL THEY GET SICK OF ME AND MY USELESSNESS AND THEY PULL THE PLUG.

OR ASK ME TO DO SOMETHING TRULY HEINOUS.

AND THEN I WENT AND MADE YOU AN AVENGER.

EXACTLY.

I WENT TO YOUR BOSSES FIRST.

EXACTLY.

AND YOU HAD TO TAKE IT BECAUSE HYDRA FOUND OUT ABOUT THE OFFER BEFORE YOU DID.

AND IF YOU TURNED IT DOWN--

I COULDN'T.

IT'S NOT UP TO ME.

TO HYDRA-- THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO CONCEIVABLE REASON FOR ME TO TURN DOWN BEING AN AVENGER.

YOU TURNED ME INTO THE JUICIEST DOUBLE AGENT EVER.

AND I STILL DON'T KNOW WHO "THEY" ARE.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

THIS ISN'T JUST HYDRA-- I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING *OVER* THEM--BEHIND THEM.

AND, LATELY, NO JOKE, *I* THINK IT'S THE SAME PEOPLE EATING S.H.I.E.L.D. FROM THE INSIDE.

AND BEFORE I CAN FIGURE OUT *HOW* TO PLAY IT, *WHO* TO TRUST, *HOW* TO GET OUT OF IT-- WE *WHAT?*

WE RUN OFF TO THE SAVAGE LAND AND WE FIND OUT HOW CORRUPT S.H.I.E.L.D. IS.

THEN WE RUN TO JAPAN AND THERE'S HYDRA.

AND THERE'S *MADAME HYDRA!*

AND I *HAD* HER.

AND--AND I *HAD* TO LET HER GO.

AND THERE IT IS. THAT THING.

THAT SOMETHING I *ABSOLUTELY* SHOULD NOT, COULD NOT, EVER DO.

SOMETHING I WOULD *NEVER* DO. LET *HER* GO.

...CAN YOU IMAGINE?

NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT AT THIS POINT--ARRESTING *HER* IS LIKE ARRESTING THE KID DEALING ON THE PLAYGROUND--IT DOESN'T REALLY STOP *ANYTHING.*

AND I ALMOST *KILLED* YOU.

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

I ALMOST GET CAPTAIN AMERICA KILLED OVER ALL THIS.

I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO KILL *MYSELF* IF THAT HAPPENED--YOU *KNOW* THAT.

WHERE'S NICK FURY?

I DON'T KNOW.

YOU GUYS BELIEVE HER?

SHE DON'T STINK LIKE SHE'S LYIN', BUT SHE *IS* AN AGENT.
THEY TRAIN THEM TO HOLD IT TOGETHER IN JUST THIS TYPE'A SITUATION.

HER HEART AND BRAIN WAVE PATTERNS ARE NORMAL.

I BELIEVE HER.
HEY, IF FURY SCREWED YOU OVER LIKE THAT--WELL, JOIN THE CLUB.
WE HAVE SHIRTS.
I'LL GO WITH THE GROUP.
IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO SAY.

I'VE KNOWN JESS HERE A LO-O-ONG TIME.
YEAH.
FOUGHT ALONGSIDE HER. WE GOT HISTORY.
YES WE DO.
I THINK SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH.
THANK YOU.
NOW TELL US THE REST.

WHAT REST?
YOU KNOW WHERE FURY IS. YOU'RE STILL WORKING WITH HIM FROM UNDERGROUND.
I DON'T.
JESS, THERE'S NO WAY YOU WOULD LISTEN TO MADAME HYDRA'S CRAP FOR TWO SECONDS UNLESS SOMETHING HUGE WERE--
NO, I--

JESSICA. YOU'RE AN AVENGER NOW. NO MORE SECRETS. NO MORE LIES.
YOU COULD HAVE *AVOIDED* WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT IF YOU WERE FORTHRIGHT WITH US TO *BEGIN* WITH.
WE'RE BOTH S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS, WE'RE BOTH AVENGERS--WE CAN FIGURE A WAY TO WORK THIS OUT.

CLEE
CLEE

CLEE
CLEE
GET YOUR PHONE.

HI.
YEAH.
YOU SAID--YOU SAID NO ONE. OKAY.
YEAH...

IT'S FOR YOU.

COLONEL.

MORNING, AVENGERS.

DON'T BE TOO HARD ON JESSICA. SHE'S IN AN IMPOSSIBLE POSITION, AND I PUT HER THERE.

I KNOW YA THINK I'M THE WORST OF THE BUNCH, BUT DON'T TAKE IT OUT ON HER.

THERE'S A LOT TO DO AND WE WERE WORKING WITH A SERIOUS HANDICAP.

NOW, WITH YOU GUYS COOKIN' AGAIN, WE GOT A BASE WE CAN FIGHT BACK FROM.

WE WHO, YOU #$%@# @##$#@@?

YOU WERE LISTENING THE WHOLE TIME?

HE WAS.

SORRY.

WHERE ARE YOU, FURY?

WE'LL GET TO THAT. TODAY YOU GOT BIGGER FISH TO FRY.

LIKE WHAT?

TURN ON THE TUBE.

EH BOY. HERE WE GO.

AND SMILE.

--ABOUT TO GO TO A LIVE SHOT OF THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED STARK TOWER RIGHT IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK CITY.

WE'RE JUST NOW GETTING SOME INFORMATION ON THIS ENERGY FLUCTUATION THAT--

4

WE'VE BEEN TOLD THAT IT IS A NON-RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL BUT STILL,THE QUESTION--

INCOMING ALIEN INVASION.

GALACTUS HAD A SENTINEL THAT HE--

THOSE FAMILIAR WITH THE KREE-SKRULL WAR.

--TONY STARK.

IF TONY STARK HAS CREATED THE WORLD'S FIRST--

WORK OF MUTANT TERRORISTS--

NOT ONLY IS TONY STARK LYING ABOUT HIS IRON MAN PERSONA BUT--

RUMORS FLOAT OF AN AVENGERS QUINJET ON THE ROOF OF--

TWO DAYS AGO, THIS ENERGY FLUX--

WORD HAS IT THAT--

--GALACTUS IS COMING.

MODEL/ACTRESS MARY JANE WATSON WAS SEEN WALKING IN AND OUT--

WHAT KIND OF PERMIT WOULD TONY STARK NEED TO--

(WE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN CARE OF THIS BEFORE JAPAN.)

JARVIS, CALL MARTHA IN MY NEW YORK OFFICE.

TELL HER TO SLAP TOGETHER A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR FOUR O'CLOCK. THAT WAY WE HIT THE SIX O'CLOCK NEWS.

ALL RIGHT, KIDS...

IT'S TIME FOR THE WORLD TO MEET THE NEW AVENGERS.

YEAH, THIS'LL GO WELL.

CAN'T WE JUST GO BACK TO BEING BEAT UP BY NINJAS?

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE NEW AVENGERS®

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BENDIS
CHO
KEITH

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And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born--to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand! Stan Lee presents…

THE NEW AVENGERS

A massive super-villain riot at the Raft, a high-tech maximum-security prison, brings together the heroes who would become the New Avengers--Captain America, Iron Man, Luke Cage, Spider-Man, Spider-Woman, and the Sentry.

After a tense showdown with Hydra in Japan, during which Spider-Woman betrayed both the Avengers and S.H.I.E.L.D. by letting their enemy go free, Captain America confronted Jessica Drew about her crooked alliances. She confessed to him that a few months before, she had lost her powers. Hydra offered to get them back for her if she would act as a double agent for them. When she told S.H.I.E.L.D. director Nick Fury about Hydra's offer, he surprisingly told her to take the deal. Jessica was to act as a double agent for S.H.I.E.L.D. instead, feeding Hydra the information that Fury wanted them fed. However, when Fury disappeared, Jessica was left with no one in S.H.I.E.L.D. to report to. She was put in an even worse position when she joined the Avengers, as now she is in the public eye.

Meanwhile, when the Sentry returned from his self-imposed incarceration in the Raft, his great Watchtower appeared in the heart of New York City, on top of Stark Tower, where the Avengers have made their home. Because of this, the Avengers must now announce themselves to the world...and to their enemies...

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My name is Carol Danvers.

Sometimes I go by Ms. Marvel. Sometimes I go by Warbird.

(Even though I know a lot of you think that name sucks.)

I even called myself Binary for a while during my more cosmic adventures.

Anyway, I'm Carol Danvers, and welcome to my blog.

Not exactly the most auspicious day to start a blog, but I made a promise to myself that this would be the day. This is what happened today.

See, earlier today, a friend of a friend called in a favor and asked me to chaperone a super-villain prison transfer.

I flew all the way out to the Rocky Mountains...for this.

The gentleman's name is Ulysses Klaw.

I know all about him because I was able to do a little research *before* I came out.

Usually that's not the case.

Usually some big guy pounces on your head and then *afterwards*, if you're at all curious, you look him up online and try to figure out what it was all about.

Klaw *was* a scientist, but he turned himself into this living energy being that relies *on sound waves* to exist.

And with the miracle of all *that*, he has decided to be a terrorizing monster.

At the tail end of his prison transfer, when he figured a way out of his containment shell, I was *more* than happy to try and slap the snot out of him.

But he's one of the tough ones.

He was hitting me with this sound converter thing he invented.

The website I read said he can hit you with a maximum force equivalent to 3,000 pounds of TNT...

...which I now know I can take, even though this was a very dodgy way to find out.

Now among my powers (which I will be listing on my FAQ page), I have the ability to absorb various forms of energy.

Which kinds are still up in the air because there are literally *millions* of different kinds of energies in the universe...

...so it was a nice surprise to find that Klaw's energies were one of the kinds I *can* absorb.

Well, it was a nice surprise for *me*.

For him...not so much.

As I said, Klaw's entire form is made out of sound energy.

So once this fight turned... it turned all the way.

Without control of his sound energies, he was losing control of his entire self.

It was a loud ending.

And without control of his body it sucked itself right into his own energy transfer invention.

But it was an ending.

Carol Danvers' Blog

My ears are still ringing.

0 comments / leave a comment

WOW.

I'M OKAY.

C-7

C-13

THAT WAS SOMETHING.

YOU GUYS GOT HIM NOW?

WE GOT HIM. I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE WOULD'A DONE.

WELL, LET'S TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT *THAT.*

YEAH.

HEY, DON'T YOU HAVE TO FLY BACK TO NEW YORK?

FOR WHAT?

OH, UH...

I DIDN'T KNOW. NEVER MIND.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL IN THE AVENGERS.

WHAT?

WHAT'S GOING ON IN NEW YORK?

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE AVENGERS?

WELL, IT WAS ON THE RADIO.

THE AVENGERS ARE ANNOUNCING THEIR NEW LINEUP THIS AFTERNOON.

ALL THE NETWORKS ARE COVERING IT.

REALLY?

I'M SORRY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE... IN ON IT.

NO. NO, I QUIT THE AVENGERS.

THAT'S TOO BAD. DO YOU KNOW WHO'S ON THE TEAM NOW? DO YOU?

YOU GOTTA TELL ME, THE SUSPENSE IS *KILLING* ME.

No.

I'm *not* one of the New Avengers.

I was a member of the old Avengers. Or should I say, the "*classic*" Avengers?

I thought the New Avengers were going to play it low-key for a while.

At least that's what Luke Cage told me...

But anyone could see what the Avengers Tower had morphed into...

...now they *had* to go public.

7 NEWS

I didn't know what they did to the Tower, but it was stunning.

PRESS

And I've seen some pretty amazing things.

To see this right in the middle of New York City...

...it took my breath away.

Avengers Tower. It's everything Avengers Mansion was, but more.

More than a landmark. A symbol. Fitting.

I was there for the best days the team ever had. And I was there for the worst.

So *much* of my adult life and my identity are *intertwined* with the Avengers that it just felt *bizarre* that the Avengers were having a big day like this and I *wasn't* there.

So I just kind of flew across the entire country and found myself there.

I wanted to visit the place anyhow, as I had things on my mind...

MS. DANVERS. SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.

JARVIS.

34TH FLOOR.

But I won't lie to you...it was a little odd to see *these* people calling themselves Avengers.

CAROL DANVERS.

HEY, GIRL.

IS EVERYTHING OKAY?

But I'm sure some Avengers thought the same thing about *me* when I joined the team.

I WAS JUST NOT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

YOU LOOK FANTASTIC.

WERE YOU GUYS IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING?

ALWAYS.

I COULD COME BACK LATER...

NO. NO. I GOTTA GO GET READY FOR OUR BIG DEBUT.

MA'AM. ARE THESE THE BLUEBERRY? HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS COMING AND TO MAKE MY FAVORITE MUFFIN? YOU'RE A PSYCHIC GENIUS.

YOU'RE TOO KIND.

DO WE *HAVE* TO WEAR OUR COSTUMES FOR THIS THING TODAY?

IT'S FOR THE BEST.

MINE SMELLS LIKE DEAD NINJA.

MINE SMELLS LIKE SYMBIOTE.

OH, *THAT'S* WHAT THAT IS.

CAP, CAN I TALK TO YOU?

ABSOLUTELY.

HOW LONG DO WE HAVE, TONY?

AN HOUR.

BUT I WANT TO GO OVER STUFF WITH THE TEAM.

WELL...

REALLY?

IF THIS IS ABOUT COMING BACK TO THE TEAM... THE ANSWER IS ABSOLUTELY.

ONCE AN AVENGER, ALWAYS AN AVENGER.

WOW, THAT'S-- THAT'S REALLY NICE.

UM, BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I CAME HERE.

Now, I know you, reading this, will be annoyed at me, but I'm going to have to be a little vague about the events that brought me to confess what I was about to confess to Captain America.

If it's just about me and only me, I'll share. I've decided to be an open book.

But some of the things I find myself involved in aren't my stories to tell. And this is one of them.

Sometimes there are going to be events or incidents in my life or in the lives of the heroes I know that are just too big or too delicate to discuss as freely as you might hope that I would on a blog like this.

Something happened recently that profoundly changed my life.

And I needed to share it with Captain America because I knew he would understand it more than anyone alive.

OH.

OKAY.

BUT THAT WAS REALLY NICE TO INVITE ME BACK. BUT, MAN...

WHAT?

YOU THINK I'M THAT MUCH OF A GLORY HOUND THAT THE SECOND BEFORE YOU GUYS ARE ABOUT TO HOP ON STAGE THAT I WOULD COME RUNNING BACK HERE?

WELL...

OW.

NO.

I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO ME DURING THE WHOLE ~~HOUSE OF M~~ THING.

ARE YOU OKAY?

YOUR POWERS?

I'M FINE.

I'M *MORE* THAN FINE.

REALLY.

SEE, BECAUSE OF ALL THAT ~~HOUSE OF M~~ STUFF I FINALLY GOT TO LIVE THE LIFE OF A REAL SUPER HERO.

I'VE NEVER FELT BETTER.

YOU *ARE* A REAL SUPER HERO.

NO. NO. LISTEN, I KNOW YOU WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE THIS BECAUSE IT'S JUST NOT HOW YOUR BRAIN WORKS.

BUT, IN OUR CIRCLES, THERE ARE *LEVELS* OF HEROES.

THERE ARE GREAT HEROES, LIKE YOU, AND THERE IS...EVERYBODY ELSE.

AND FOR A WHILE IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT I'VE BEEN WALLOWING IN *"EVERYBODY ELSE-NESS."*

BUT IN THE ~~HOUSE OF M,~~ I GOT TO LIVE THE LIFE OF A REAL HERO.

A HERO WHO *INSPIRES* PEOPLE.

I GOT TO FEEL EXACTLY WHAT THAT FEELS LIKE, AND I *LOVED* IT.

AND NOW I--I REALIZE THAT I LOVE BEING THAT PERSON, AND THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO REASON IN THE WORLD WHY I SHOULDN'T TRY TO BE THAT PERSON ALL THE TIME.

AND FRANKLY I'M *EMBARRASSED* TO REALIZE THAT I'M NOT ANYWHERE *NEAR* THAT PERSON I SHOULD AND COULD BE.

I'VE WASTED SO MUCH *TIME* BEING, BASICALLY, *HALF* OF MYSELF.

DOES THIS MAKE *SENSE?*

I DON'T AGREE, BUT YES.

IT'S *FILLED* ME WITH--WITH PURPOSE.

I FEEL *REINVENTED.*

AND WITH THE ~~HOUSE OF M~~ FALLOUT BEING JUST SO HORRIBLE FOR EVERYONE, IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD ANNOUNCE TO THE ROOM: WOW, I KNOW MUTANT/HUMAN RELATIONS JUST GOT THROWN BACK TO THE *STONE AGE,* BUT *I* FEEL GREAT.

I WANTED TO TELL *YOU* THAT I'M GOING TO GO OUT THERE AND RE-EARN MY WINGS AS A SUPER HERO.

I'M GOING TO EARN MY NAME.

AND, MAYBE, WHEN I FEEL I HAVE... *THEN*--THEN I'LL COME BACK TO THE AVENGERS...

...IF THAT'S OKAY WITH YOU.

CAROL...

...I'LL NEVER ARGUE WITH SOMEONE WHO WANTS MORE FROM THEMSELF...

...BUT, IN MY OPINION, YOU *ARE* A GREAT HERO...

...AND ONCE AN AVENGER, ALWAYS AN AVENGER. OKAY?

OKAY.

AND YOU KNOW, IF YOU NEED ME FOR ANY--

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO FINISH THE SENTENCE.

OKAY.

CAN I STAY AND HANG OUT FOR THE UNVEILING?

SURE.

COOL. THIS WAS ALWAYS MY *FAVORITE* DAY AS AN AVENGER.

UNVEILING THE NEW TEAM.

IT'S LIKE BEING BACK-STAGE AT A GREAT SHOW.

WELL...

...WE'LL SEE WHAT KIND OF SHOW IT IS.

I'M NOT GOING OUT ON A STAGE AND PLAYING DANCIN' MONKEY!!!

LOGAN, YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU WANT, BUT WITH MUTANT-HUMAN RELATIONS NOW A DISASTER...

...A PUBLIC SHOW OF SOLIDARITY LIKE THIS WOULDN'T BE THE WORST THING YOU'VE EVER DONE.

ACTUALLY, IT DAMN WELL WOULD BE.

HERE'S THE NEWS: I'VE KILLED.

I'VE ***MURDERED*** PEOPLE. YOU GET ME? I'VE KILLED PEOPLE IN THEIR SLEEP.

PEOPLE THAT ***DESERVED*** IT? YEAH.

BUT I DON'T THINK A GUY WHO'S DONE WHAT ***I'VE*** HAD TO DO IN THIS WORLD TO STAY ALIVE SHOULD BE GETTIN' ON A STAGE AND WAVIN'.

YOU AND I HAVE A DEAL, AND THIS AIN'T PART OF IT.

YOU'RE NOT WRONG, LOGAN.

YOUR CHOICE.

YOU GETTING READY, LUKE?

YEAH.

OKAY, AVENGERS... THIS IS THE TOUGHEST AND, IN A LOT OF WAYS, THE MOST FUN PART OF THE JOB.

YOU'RE ABOUT TO BECOME MOVIE STARS, ROCK STARS, AND REALITY-SHOW STARS ALL WRAPPED UP IN ONE.

YOU'RE NOT HEROES ANYMORE, YOU'RE ICONS.

AND THIS IS WHERE I BECOME A HUGE LIABILITY TO THE TEAM.

SERIOUSLY, I, UH, I ***DON'T*** GET GOOD PRESS. AT ALL.

WE'VE ALL GOTTEN OUR FAIR SHARE OF BAD PRESS.

UH... NOT LIKE ***ME.***

COME ON, YOU'VE SEEN THE *DAILY BUGLE* HEADLINES.

SPIDER-MAN: MENACE.

SPIDER-MAN: MURDERER.

EVERY DAY SINCE I WAS A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL.

GREEN DAY MADE A SONG OUT OF IT.

IT'S NOT A BAD SONG.

OKAY--WELL, PETE, THIS ISN'T WHERE YOU BECOME A LIABILITY TO ***US,*** THIS IS WHERE WE BECOME A--A WHAT'S THE OPPOSITE OF LIABILITY?

GOOD THING?

A GOOD THING FOR YOU.

THIS IS WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO SEE HOW THE MACHINE WORKS ***FOR*** YOU.

HOW SO?

GO PUT YOUR MASK ON AND HIDE YOUR WIFE AND AUNT.

HE'LL BE HERE IN 27 MINUTES.

HE ***WHO?***

GENTLEMEN, LADY...

MISTER JOSEPH ROBERTSON, EDITOR IN CHIEF OF THE *DAILY BUGLE.*

MISTER J. JONAH JAMESON, PUBLISHER OF THE *DAILY BUGLE.*

AND MS. (MS.?)

SURE.

MS. KAT FARRELL, REPORTER.

I AM VERY GLAD YOU ACCEPTED THE INVITATION, MR. JAMESON.

OY.

CAN WE GET YOU--?

LET'S JUST GET TO IT.

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

WE'RE THE NEW AVENGERS.

WE'RE ANNOUNCING OUR LINEUP IN JUST ABOUT AN HOUR.

THIS IS THE TEAM... MORE OR LESS.

HIM?

YES.
AND WE KNOW YOU AND HE HAVE A HISTORY.
I KNOW YOU HAVE YOUR OPINIONS ABOUT HIM, BUT I WANTED TO TELL YOU, FROM ME, THAT THE MAN IN THAT UNIFORM IS A TRUE AMERICAN HERO.
THIS IS A FACT. I'VE SEEN HIM IN ACTION WITH MY OWN EYES.
HE'S BEEN THROUGH MORE THAN ALL OF US PUT TOGETHER, AND STILL HE PERSEVERES.
EVEN WHEN THE PRESS TURNS THE CITY AGAINST HIM. STILL HE ACTS THE HERO.
I REPORT THE NEWS.
AND YOU EDITORIALIZE.
AND THAT'S YOUR RIGHT.
IT'S YOUR PAPER AND IT'S YOUR POINT OF VIEW.
AND YOU HAVE TO FILL THOSE PAGES.
DAILY BUGLE
NEW YORK'S FINEST DAILY NEWSPAPER
SPIDER-MAN: MURDERER
SPIDER-MAN: MENACE
SPIDER-MAN CLONE IS A MENACE
WEBBED WONDER TERRORIZES CITY
I WAS WONDERING, THOUGH--
--IF WE GAVE YOU STORIES BETTER SUITED FOR A PAPER WITH THE POWER OF THE DAILY BUGLE...
...DO YOU THINK THAT WOULD FILL THE PAGES BETTER THAN "SPIDER-MAN: MENACE" OVER AND OVER?
WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?
EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE.
EXCLUSIVE ACCESS.
IF I LAY OFF HIM....
SAY YES OR I QUIT.

OKAY, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS JUST WAVE AND SMILE. JUST BE YOURSELF.

AND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO ANSWER A QUESTION, JUST SMILE WARMLY AND SAY, "I DON'T WANT TO ANSWER THE QUESTION."

IF YOU FEEL YOURSELF FREAKING OUT A LITTLE, JUST GENTLY WALK OFF-STAGE. WE'LL COVER FOR YOU.

YOU ALL RIGHT, JESSICA?

I DON'T THINK I SHOULD GO OUT THERE.

WHY?

WELL, I ALMOST *KILLED* YOU THIS MORNING.

ALMOST. I'M FINE.

COME ON, COME ON.

YOU *HAVE* TO.

PEOPLE ARE WATCHING. HYDRA. S.H.I.E.L.D.

IF YOU DON'T GO OUT THERE, YOU JEOPARDIZE YOUR COVER.

I HATE THIS.

I'VE BEEN AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. A GOOD LONG TIME, JESSICA.

I'M SURE BETWEEN THE TWO OF US WE CAN FIND OUT WHO OUR ENEMIES ARE AND GET YOU OUT OF THIS MESS.

Carol Danvers' Blog

So here's the question I get every five seconds... What's Captain America really like?

He's really like what you'd think he'd be like.

He's amazing.

0 comments | leave a comment

In this day and age where no one can agree on anything...

...where stating an ideal puts a target on your head...

...here's a man who wears the flag and steps out on a stage...

...and the place goes berserk.

AVENGERS FOREVER!

Democrat, Republican, Libertarian, Smurf...

...they go berserk.

Beatles berserk.

I was up on the 34th floor watching the live feed and I could hear the crowd from the ground outside.

And no one handles it with more humanity and humility and humor than Cap.

This isn't super-solider serum, this is the man.

HELLO.

WHILE I'M NOT ONE FOR SPEECHES...

AVENGERS RULE!!

...I DID WANT TO SPEAK TO YOU BRIEFLY ABOUT WHAT THE AVENGERS MEAN TO ME.

AS SOME OF YOU KNOW, THE AVENGERS ARE THE ONES THAT FOUND ME.

THEY WERE THE VERY FIRST FACES I SAW IN THIS BRAVE NEW WORLD...

...AND THEY HAVE BEEN MY FAMILY EVER SINCE.

A ***HUGE*** FAMILY. AND JUST LIKE ANY FAMILY, WE HAVE OUR UPS AND DOWNS.

WE HAVE OUR TRAGEDIES AND OUR TRIUMPHS.

WE HAVE NEW PEOPLE COME INTO OUR FAMILY AS OTHERS GO OUT INTO THE WORLD TO FIND THEIR WAY.

NOW, THE AVENGERS CALLED IT QUITS A FEW MONTHS AGO. BUT THAT WAS PREMATURE.

WE JUST NEEDED TO REGROUP AND REDISCOVER OURSELVES.

IT'S NOT EASY TO BE ATTACKED IN YOUR OWN HOME.

IT'S NOT EASY TO SEE TEAMMATES FALL.

BHUURP!

BUT A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, THIS CITY WAS PUT IN DANGER ONCE AGAIN. AND HEROES GATHERED TO FIGHT IT.

IT WAS A GATHERING MUCH LIKE THE ONE THAT BROUGHT THE ORIGINAL AVENGERS TOGETHER.

AND THAT'S WHEN WE DECIDED THE BEST WAY TO ***HONOR*** OUR FALLEN BROTHERS, THE BEST WAY TO ***HONOR*** THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD WHO HAVE GIVEN US THEIR TRUST...

...THE BEST WAY TO HONOR THIS CITY AND OUR WORLD COMMUNITY IS TO REASSEMBLE THE AVENGERS.

AVENGERS
AVENGERS GO HOME
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!
HERE, IN OUR NEW HOME... AVENGERS TOWER...
...I AM PROUD TO PRESENT THE NEW AVENGERS!!!
AVENGERS 4:EVER
I KNOW WHAT SIDE I'M ON!
BELTSVILLE ♥ AVENGERS
I ♥ YOU CAPTAIN AMERICA!
LUKE CAGE IS ONE BAD MOTHER
CAGE FOR PREZ
I LOVE YOU SPIDEY
AWESOME AVENGERS!

Carol Danvers' Blog

It *was* a great day. As good as it looked on TV.

I'm glad I stayed...

0 comments | leave a comment

Carol Danvers' Blog

...I should have left before it got ugly.

0 comments | leave a comment

NO!

"A WANTED MURDERER, AN ALLEGED EX-MEMBER OF A GLOBAL TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, AND A CONVICTED HEROIN DEALER ARE JUST A FEW OF THE NEW RECRUITS WHO ARE POSED TO BURY THE ONCE GOOD NAME OF THE AVENGERS ONCE AND FOR ALL."

WHO'S A TERRORIST?

ME.

WHO'S A CONVICTED HEROIN--?

FALSELY ACCUSED.

THE CASE WAS OVERTURNED. THIS IS TOTAL $%^&#$%@.

AND I *WORK* FOR THE *BUGLE!!* HE'S SUCH A $%#@! NOW I *HAVE* TO QUIT!!

JESSICA--

OH, IT'S DONE.

I CAN'T *BELIEVE* JAMESON WALKED RIGHT INTO MY HOME, LOOKED ME RIGHT IN THE EYE AND TOLD ME WE HAD A DEAL, AND THEN WENT AND *DID* THIS. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

SEE... I CAN.

"AND TO IMAGINE THAT THESE MASKED VIGILANTES HAD THE GALL TO INVITE ME...

"... YOUR ESTEEMED PUBLISHER-AT-LARGE UP INTO THE TOWER OF LIES, TO TRY TO GET ME TO SPIN NEWS PIECES FOR THEM IN RETURN FOR BURYING THE TRUTH ABOUT THAT WEBBED, WALL-CRAWLING, MURDERING MENACE...

THAT'S ME.

"...JUST SHOWS HOW FAR THE BAR FOR A HERO HAS FALLEN."

I'M GOING OUT.

I'LL COME WITH.

NAH, I'VE HAD A DAY OF IT. I NEED ALONE TIME.

BELTSVILLE

I'LL DRINK YOU UNDER THE TABLE SOME OTHER TIME.

McSWIGGIN'S PUB

QUIET.

YOU'RE A ROCK STAR NOW.

THERE'S NO ONE HERE.

I KNOW, CONNELLY I JUST DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY OF YOUR CONDESCENDING--

DID THEY FIGURE OUT YOUR CONNECTION TO MADAME HYDRA?

OF *COURSE* THEY DID! *OF COURSE THEY DID!* CAPTAIN AMERICA GOT RIGHT IN MY FACE!

OF COURSE THEY DID! WHAT IS *WRONG* WITH HER?

WELL, SHE'S A TAD INSANE.

SHE STILL ALIVE?

YEP.

WHOOPIE.

SHE FLEW HER LITTLE ANTI-GRAV BOOTS RIGHT BACK TO OSAKA.

THE AVENGERS ARE GOING TO BE READY FOR HER.

YOU TOLD THEM EVERYTHING AND THEY FORGAVE YOU?

ALMOST EVERYTHING. CLEARLY.

AND NICK FURY?

HE'S BACK IN THE GAME.

HE SURFACED??!!

HE SAID HE'S GOING TO WORK WITH THE AVENGERS IN SECRET TO TAKE YOU GUYS DOWN.

WOW.

THAT IS GOOD NEWS.

AND YOU EARNED YOUR LIFE FOR YET ANOTHER DAY.

NEXT ISSUE : THE COLLECTIVE

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